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Iran says Israel is main source of all regional crises

TEHRAN — The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Tuesday saying the Zionist regime of Israel is the main source of all crises in the Middle East region and a real threat to international peace.

The statement was released on the occasion of the Nakba Day, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the illegitimate Zionist regime of Israel.

Following is the full text of the statement published by the Foreign Ministry's website:

The Palestinian land witnessed one of the most painful incidents in the history of Islam and the world on May 14, 1948. Ever since, the people of this territory have not savoured the taste of tranquility and calm. **→3**

Rouhani agrees to prioritize five security, defense projects

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has approved five draft laws proposed by the Supreme Council for Science, Research and Technology to prioritize a number of mega national projects in security and defense fields. The projects are in the areas of subsurface technology, cyber defense, radar systems and passenger planes, Fars reported.

All executive bodies and training and research institutes are required to help with the implementation of the projects and the country's Planning and Budget Organization has been tasked with budgeting the projects.

Iran announced in 2013 that it aimed to fly its first Antonov-158 jointly built with a Ukrainian company. **→2**

Saudi Arabia says oil facilities outside Riyadh attacked

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabia said armed drones had struck two oil pumping stations in the kingdom on Tuesday.

Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih, in comments run by state media, said the drone attack and Sunday's sabotage of four vessels, including two Saudi tankers, off Fujairah emirate, a major bunkering hub, threatened global oil supplies.

"These attacks prove again that it is important for us to face terrorist entities, including the Houthi militias in Yemen," Falih said in an English-language statement issued by his ministry.

Al-Falih says the kingdom has stopped pumping crude oil on a major pipeline across the country after retaliatory drone strikes carried out by Yemeni army forces and their allies. **→13**



PERSPECTIVE

Hanif Ghaffari
Head of the Politics Desk of the TehranTimes

The cost of Trump's behaviors for the United States

The US foreign policy in the world has been condemned by many international actors. Washington has, on one hand, promoted unilateralism during the presidency of Donald Trump, and on the other hand, has caused irreparable harm to the diplomatic relations of the world.

Polls in the United States indicate that most American voters are dissatisfied with Trump's foreign policy. A majority of Americans disapprove of the way President Donald Trump is handling U.S. foreign policy and about half think the country's global standing will deteriorate during the next year, according to new poll that highlighted the nation's partisan divide on foreign issues.

as The Associated Press reported, Overall, the president receives low marks from the public for his job handling foreign policy — 35 percent approve, while 63 percent disapprove. Like other issues, the partisan divide is startling. While 76 percent of Republicans approve, just 8 percent of Democrats say the same. "I just think that any time you buddy up with Russia or North Korea, it's going to be bad business," said Samantha Flowers, a 30-year-old third-grade teacher from Columbia, Missouri.

"Also, the way that he's handling our neighboring countries — Mexico in particular. I think it just goes against our American values in general. We've been a welcoming and compassionate country," she said before starting to recite words emblazoned on the Statue of Liberty, which reads in part: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The fact of this is that one of the major points of the foreign policy of the Trump government is the issue of Iran. Undoubtedly, in the near future, Trump will see the consequences of his encounter with Iran over issues such as economic sanctions and withdrawal from the nuclear deal. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that the United States President can not only have a strong presence in the White House by focusing on economic issues. Therefore, even if Trump will win the presidential election in 2020, he will not have a firm presence in the White House. Currently, in many public and state polls in the US, citizens of the country prefer people like Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders to Trump. **→6**

New U.S.-Israel plot doomed to failure: envoy

TEHRAN — Palestinian Ambassador to Tehran Salah al-Zawawi said on Tuesday that the new U.S. and Israeli plot is doomed to failure.

"Unity and resistance is the only way to defeat anti-Palestine plots," he said on the anniversary of the day when the Israeli regime declared existence 71 years ago.

"The new U.S. and Israeli plot, known as deal of the century, is condemned to failure," Zawawi emphasized.

On May 7, Israeli Hebrew-language daily newspaper Israel Hayom, which is close to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, published a leaked document circulated by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, detailing the elements of the US back-channel peace plan. The plan is made up of the following main points:

A tripartite agreement will be signed between the Tel Aviv regime, the Ramallah-based Pal-

estinian Authority (PA) as well as the Hamas resistance movement, which controls the besieged and impoverished Gaza Strip, and subsequently a Palestinian state will be established that will be called "New Palestine."

"New Palestine" will be established in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, with the exception of Israeli settlements built on Palestinian land in the West Bank.

The settlement blocs in the occupied West Bank, which are illegal under international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2334, will remain under the Israeli regime's control and will expand to reach out to other isolated settlements.

Moreover, the Israeli-occupied city of Jerusalem al-Quds will not be divided but is to be shared by Israel and "New Palestine," with the Israeli regime maintaining general control.

The Arab population living in Jerusalem al-

Quds will be citizens of New Palestine, but the Tel Aviv regime would remain in charge of the municipality and therefore the land.

The newly formed Palestinian state would pay taxes and water costs to the Jerusalem al-Quds municipality. Trump's "peace plan" has been dismissed by Palestinian authorities ahead of its unveiling at the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan and the formation of the new Israeli cabinet, most likely in June.

Speaking in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on April 16, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh lashed out at Trump's initiative, asserting that it was "born dead."

Shtayyeh noted that negotiations with the US were useless in the wake of the country's relocation of its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem al-Quds, which Palestinians consider the capital city of their future state.

Despite falling numbers, immigration remains divisive EU issue

TEHRAN — Migrant arrivals to Italy have almost dried up, new asylum requests across the European Union have more than halved in three years and at the end of 2018, Hungary's reception centers housed just three refugees.

On the face of it, Europe's migrant crisis appears over, but the shockwaves still resound around the continent ahead of this month's European Parliament election, and nationalist politicians are looking to capitalize on the continued tumult, Reuters reported.

"The most important thing is that leaders are elected who oppose immigration so that Europe will be in a position to defend itself," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said

on the sidelines of an EU summit in Romania last week.

Opponents accuse far-right and populist parties of grossly exaggerating the problem, but the issue still resonates, with a YouGov poll published on Monday showing that immigration was currently the voters' top concern, followed by climate change.

The survey, carried out in eight EU states, showed just 3% of respondents thought "all is well" on the migration front, YouGov said. Only 14% believed the European Union had done a good job handling the emergency.

Once consigned to the fringes of European politics, anti-immigrant parties saw support

surge in 2015 when more than a million refugees and migrants flowed out of the Middle East and Africa in search of a safer, better life in Europe.

The influx caught EU governments by surprise, stretching both social and security services, and revealing the inability of Brussels to find a way of sharing the immigration burden in the face of wildly conflicting national interests.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, nationalist and eurosceptic parties are expected to chalk up their best ever result in the May 23-26 EU vote, putting them in a strong position to shape policy in the 28-nation bloc over the coming five years.



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Hazrat-e Masumeh Shrine serves guests with Iftar meals

Photo depicts pilgrims to the Hazrat-e Masumeh Shrine who are served with Iftar meals, May 12, 2019.

Located in Qom, southern Tehran, the Shrine is where Fatima Masumeh (AS), the sister of the eighth Imam Reza (AS), is laid to rest.

A fasting day during Ramadan begins before the sunrise and continues during the daylight hours. It comes to an end with the evening meal of Iftar served at sunset. Muslims break their fast at the time of the call for evening prayer.



ARTICLE

By Yuram Abdullah Weiler
Analyst and journalist

Upping the Ante: U.S. officials threaten Iran...again

"The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces."

— John Bolton

Yes, U.S. National Security Advisor and über hawk John Bolton, and his sanguinary sidekick U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, are saber-rattling once again. Perhaps the United States is not seeking war with the Islamic Republic of Iran with the level of bellicose bloodlust exhibited by Bolton and Pompeo, but rest assured regime change is and has been the Washington regime's objective since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

In fact, the U.S. has sought regime change in Iran even before Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini arrived at Mehrabad Airport on February 1, 1979. Prior to that date, the Carter administration had sent General "Dutch" Huyser to Tehran on January 4th to evaluate the feasibility of engineering another coup with the goal of installing another western-friendly, puppet ruler should Mohammad Reza Pahlavi fall. The U.S. had orchestrated a previous coup in Iran using the CIA on August 19, 1953 to return the Shah to power, overthrowing the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh.

On May 8, 2018, Trump announced to the world his intention to pull the U.S. out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the "Iran nuclear deal," which he claimed was "defective at its core." About two weeks later on May 21, Pompeo, after being on the job for a little over 3 weeks, announced a new U.S. policy towards Iran in remarks made before the Heritage Foundation, an extreme, right-leaning think tank that rose to prominence during Reagan's presidency. The main thrust of the new approach is the re-imposition of economic sanctions, along with a laundry list of unconscionable demands, which neither Iran nor any other sovereign nation would accept, such as completely stopping enrichment of uranium, halting indefinitely any nuclear research with a possible military dimension, and allowing free and unfettered inspections throughout the country by the IAEA. **→7**

Zarif: Iran concerned about 'suspicious acts of sabotage' in region

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran had already predicted that some would carry out measures to heighten regional tensions and had voiced concerns about dangerous measures taken by U.S. hardliners.

Zarif made the remarks after a meeting with his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi on Tuesday, Mehr reported.

His comments came after four commercial ships were targeted in a "sabotage attack" off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday.

The incident reportedly took place near Fujairah port, just outside the Strait of Hormuz, but caused no casualties. Saudi Arabia confirmed that two Saudi oil tankers sustained "significant damage".

Iran is concerned about the "suspicious acts of sabotage and vandalism" which are occurring in the region, Zarif asserted.

He pointed out that during the meeting with his Indian counterpart, the two sides discussed the dangerous policies pushed by hardliners inside the United States.

Elsewhere in his remark, the Iranian foreign minister called for closer ties between the two countries, saying India has coordinated and cooperated with Iran in different areas.

He described the talks "constructive and promising", saying the two sides talked about a host of issues, including the mutual economic tie.

The meeting focused on a number of issues, including the 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and Iran's recent move to revisit some of its obligations to the international pact, Zarif recalled.

He noted that in line with the policies to clarify the Islamic Republic's approach toward the nuclear deal for its close partners, the Indian side was briefed about the latest JCPOA developments and Iran's strategic decisions to preserve the pact.

Last week, Iran announced that it would stop implementing some of its commitments to the JCPOA in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal, giving the other remaining parties to the deal a 60-day ultimatum to comply with their commitments.

Zarif said he had emphasized during the meeting that should Iran's demands be met, Tehran will resume complying with the suspended commitments.

The top diplomat stressed that Iran has no intention to leave the JCPOA, and its decision on reducing commitments is still within the framework of the agreement.

Zarif added that the two sides also discussed the ways to boost economic ties between Iran and India, including the future of the Chabahar port project, and the continuation of energy cooperation.

India, which is the second biggest buyer of Iranian oil after China, was pushed by the U.S. to restrict its monthly purchase to 300,000 barrel per day, down from 452,000 barrel per day bought in the financial year 2017-18, according to sources.

Iran, China back Afghan peace efforts under Kabul direction

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The Chinese Foreign Ministry's Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs, Deng Xijun, and his entourage held talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi in Tehran on Monday, expressing support for efforts to bring



lasting peace to the country under the leadership and supervision of the central government.

Araqchi emphasized the role of regional countries in helping the Afghan government achieve a lasting peace agreement, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

The two sides looked into the latest political and security situation in Afghanistan as well as the ongoing peace efforts in the country.

Considering the mutual interests and concerns of Iran and China in regard to Afghanistan, the two sides stressed the need to develop cooperation in this regard.

The meeting between Araqchi and Xijun was held within the framework of regular consultations between the two states on the issue of Afghanistan.

Iran has been hosting about 3 million Afghan refugees since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

With the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in late 1980s under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, there was a hope that peace will prevail in the country. However, war started between rival factions and it is continuing until today.

Even the U.S. attack on Afghanistan following the September 11 attacks and the overthrow of the Taliban regime failed to bring calm to the country.

After 18 years of unsuccessful war with the Taliban, Washington has started talks with the Taliban, sidelining the central government.

Analysts say the United States' talks with the Taliban is for a face-saving exit from Afghanistan.

Rouhani agrees to prioritize five security, defense projects

1 → The new air vehicle with a seating capacity of 100 passengers is the next generation of IRAN-140 airplane.

After purchasing the production license for the Antonov-140 from Ukraine in 2000, Iran built its first IRAN-140 passenger plane in 2003.

The first IRAN-140 aircraft was introduced in 2003. Five domestically-manufactured IRAN-140 planes were completed in October 2008 to increase the country's transportation capacity and upgrade the Iranian passenger fleet.

The IRAN-140 is a double-engine turboprop aircraft which can fly almost 1,865 miles before re-fuelling and its passenger model seats 52 people.

Iran may quit JCPOA if nuclear case sent to Security Council: AEOI spokesman

Press TV — A senior official of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the country has a host of different measures to take if its nuclear case is sent back to the UN Security Council, including quitting the nuclear deal it clinched with major world powers back in 2015.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman of the AEOI, made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Press TV, when asked about Iran's possible reaction to U.S.'s potential decision to take the Islamic Republic's nuclear case back to the Security Council.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will take drastic and major steps to realize the right of the Iranian nation," he said, adding, "We cannot exclude any measure ... We have so far talked about different measures. It could be leaving the [nuclear] deal [and] it could be other actions as to the NPT (the Non-Proliferation Treaty) or any other things.... It is for the senior officials of the country to decide."

"If they take Iran's case to the Security Council, they will ruin the deal ... and the deal will not be alive anymore," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington in May 2018 from the multilateral nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and decided to re-impose unilateral sanctions against Tehran.

Under the JCPOA, reached in July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China plus Germany, Iran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions.

On the first anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal, Iran announced that it would suspend the implementation of some of its commitments under the deal, announcing that it would stop exporting excess uranium and heavy water, setting a 60-day deadline for the five remaining parties to the deal to take practical measures towards ensuring its interests in the face of the American sanctions.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi also said in an interview on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic has put a "step-by-step" withdrawal from the nuclear deal on the agenda.

"We have not left the JCPOA so far, but



we have put such a move on our agenda and that would happen step-by-step," the senior Iranian diplomat said, adding, "No country can accuse Iran of breaching or leaving the nuclear deal."

Elsewhere in his interview with Press TV, Kamalvandi said Iran has no intention to stop fulfilling its commitments under the JCPOA, but decided to suspend parts of them for six months.

Tehran's decision to suspend some of its nuclear deal commitments was meant to give time to Europeans to comply with their obligations and to bring the international agreement back on its right track, he added.

The Iranian official said the main objective of the JCPOA was the removal of sanctions against Iran in a bid to help the country avail itself of the benefits of the deal; however, the restrictive measures are still in place despite Tehran's full compliance and the goal has not been realized so far.

The Iranian nuclear official also criticized the European signatories to the agreement for failing to implement the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) aimed at circumventing the U.S. sanctions.

"Iran waited for a year to see what Europeans are going to do, they have given promises ... they have taken good positions, but their promises about SPV and INSTEX

have not been fulfilled," Kamalvandi said.

Late in January, the three European parties to the 2015 deal issued a joint statement, announcing the launch of a long-awaited direct non-dollar payment mechanism meant to safeguard their trade ties with Tehran in the face of the sanctions.

Germany, France and Britain had registered the mechanism, named INSTEX, which would be based in the French capital, Paris, and managed by a German banking expert.

Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi on Saturday censured the European signatories to the landmark nuclear agreement for failing to fulfill their obligations under the deal, urging them to speed up implementing the non-dollar direct payment channel with Tehran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran negotiated honestly and, as a result, a nuclear accord was reached which has also been endorsed by the UN Security Council [Resolution 2231]. But despite Iran's fulfillment of its commitments, Europe has only taken a political stance and reneged on its obligations," the senior Iranian official added.

The AEOI spokesman further said Britain, Germany and France have only been offering nice words and promises with regard to the JCPOA and emphasized that Iran just wants the removal of sanctions in order to be benefited by the deal.

Iran seeks to preserve nuclear deal: Kharrazi

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Kamal Kharrazi, chief of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has said that Iran seeks to preserve the 2015 nuclear deal, is officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In an interview with Le Monde published on Monday, he said the objective behind Iran's partial withdrawal from the JCPOA is survival of the deal.

"We believe that the European countries have not kept their promises, and we give them two months to do it," he said.

Kharrazi, who was foreign minister from 1997-2005 under President Mohammad Khatami, noted that Iran's action does not violate the nuclear deal.

He said that two months is enough for Europe to start first transactions through INSTEX (Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges).

On May 8, Iran officially announced that it stops selling stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water for 60 days. However, Iran warned if a conclusion is not reached in this time period, it will take other measures step by step and will accelerate its uranium enrichment activities.

Under the JCPOA, Iran's stockpile of low enriched uranium is capped at 300kg and heavy water reserve at 130 tons.

"This announcement is for 60 days. We have announced to the other side, the five countries [Germany, France, UK, Russia and

"Europeans must do something to change the [present] course of events," he added.

He emphasized that Europeans have realized that Washington's unilateral sanctions against Iran are also detrimental to their interests and would even damage the political and economic stability of the world, arguing that a global front is being formed against the U.S. unilateralism.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said earlier on Monday that the European Union fully supports the international nuclear accord with Iran after Tehran decided to scale down its commitments in response to U.S. sanctions.

"We will continue to support it as much as we can with all our instruments and all our political will," Mogherini said before meeting foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany in Brussels.

Kamalvandi also stated that Iran would not continue to voluntarily implement its commitments unless the Europeans "change the course and do their part."

"We are waiting for practical steps by Europeans and after 60 days, we will decide whether or not to end other voluntary commitments," the nuclear official pointed out.

"INSTEX has not worked properly so far ... We think they [Europeans] are willing to do something, but are not able to take practical and major steps ... we have given them time to deal with this problem and take major steps."

Kamalvandi criticized the two mechanisms of SPV and INSTEX, which have not proven to be practical and effective so far and said, "We cannot wait anymore; if they really want to do something, they have to do it sooner than later."

In April, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif once again complained about a delay by European partners in the JCPOA to make operational the direct payment channel with Tehran, saying they now have "no excuse" for further postponement of the project.

The Europeans introduced the INSTEX as "a preliminary measure" - as part of their multiple commitments under the JCPOA - following Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear accord, Zarif said, stressing that in order to begin honoring their commitments, the Europeans were required to set up the mechanism.



China], that if they come to the negotiating table in 60 days and we reach a conclusion and safeguard our main interests which are oil [sale] and banking relations, we will return to the previous situation of May 7, 2019," President Hassan Rouhani told a cabinet meeting on May 8.

Under the JCPOA, endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, Iran was tasked to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. However, since President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the JCPOA, the European countries cut banking ties with Iran, stopped purchasing Iranian oil, annulled agreements, and their companies left Iran one after another.

On January 31, France, Germany and Britain announced the creation of INSTEX, a special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

Larijani slams EU's inaction to salvage nuclear pact

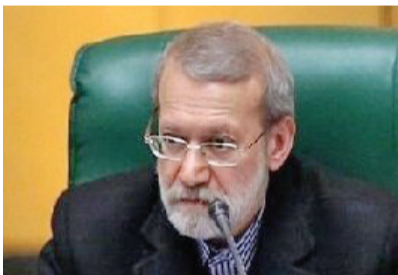
POLITICAL TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani has criticized European powers' lack of commitment to their obligations under the Iran nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Since Iran gave a 60-day ultimatum to the Europeans, they "have not taken any specific measures about the issue," MP Hossein-Ali Haji Daligani quoted Larijani as saying during the parliament's closed session on Tuesday.

Europeans have not taken any specific measures about banking transactions since the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, and Iran's 60-day-deadline is considered as another opportunity for them, the Majlis speaker remarked, Mehr reported.

The parliament on Tuesday held a closed session on Tehran's decision to reduce its commitments to the nuclear deal and its 60-day ultimatum to the remaining parties to the JCPOA.

President Hassan Rouhani announced on May 8 — exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA — that Tehran would partially discontinue its commitments under the deal. Iran gave Europe 60 days to ensure Iran's interests were protected under the agreement. Otherwise, Tehran is ready to take further steps towards leaving the nuclear deal, Rouhani added.



The EU rejected Iran's ultimatum, saying, "We will assess Iran's compliance on the basis of Iran's performance regarding its nuclear-related commitments."

EU chief diplomat Federica Mogherini has said that the bloc remains fully committed to the full implementation of the JCPOA, insisting that so far Iran has been fully compliant with all of its nuclear-related commitments. She also voiced hope that the EU's full commitment to the agreement would contribute to preserve it in the future.

Meanwhile, Alireza Salimi, who represents Mahallat in the parliament, said Iran wishes to preserve the JCPOA, something which is even more important than making INSTEX operational.

Speaking with Iran Press, Salimi also said that none of the political factions in the parliament support the idea of holding talks with the United States.

Iran dismisses report on alleged demand to stay in nuclear deal

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Tehran on Tuesday dismissed a report by Reuters which claimed that the Islamic Republic had conditioned its staying in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Europe ensuring that the country sold 1.5 mbpd of oil.

Abbas Mousavi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, referred to the report as "news-making" and "partial, imprecise resumption", warning against its "destructive" effects towards serious diplomacy.

He said Iran's demands of the remaining countries in the JCPOA - the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal - have been explicitly stated in a May 8 letter to European leaders by President Hassan Rouhani.

Reuters on Monday quoted "sources with knowledge of Iran-EU talks" that Iran had insisted on exporting at least 1.5 mbpd of oil, triple May's expected levels under U.S. sanctions, as a condition for staying in the international nuclear deal.

The figure was communicated in recent meetings between Iranian and Western officials, including Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, but has not been set down in writing, four European diplomatic sources said, according to Reuters.



The United States reimposed sanctions in November on exports of Iranian oil after Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 accord in May 2018 between Iran and six world powers.

In an attempt to reduce Iran's crude exports to zero, Washington ended at the beginning of May waivers that had allowed the top buyers of Iranian oil to continue their

imports for six months.

The sanctions have already more than halved Iranian oil exports to 1 million bpd or less, from a peak of 2.8 million bpd last year. Exports could drop to as low as 500,000 bpd from May, an Iranian official told Reuters this month.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei set out last year a series of conditions for European powers if they wanted Tehran to stay in the nuclear deal, including continued purchases of Iranian oil.

According to one European Union official, the Iranians have not been specific, but they wanted to ensure production returned to pre-sanctions levels. Other sources said Iran's demand seemed to be in a general range of 1.5 million to 2 mbpd.

According to Iran's budget for this year, one third of the government's income - 1,425 trillion rials (\$33.9 billion, with 1 USD at the official rate of 42,000 rials) - should come from oil and gas exports.

The budget was based on a forecast crude oil price of \$50-\$54 per barrel and a U.S. dollar rate of 57,000 rials, meaning the Iranian economy could remain sustainable if exports came to at least 1.5 million bpd.

Russia says Washington is to blame for Iran's accumulation of excess enriched uranium

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran is unable to export enriched uranium and heavy water exactly because of U.S. sanctions that encumber implementation of certain provisions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a Russian official has said, Sputniknews reported on Tuesday.

"The United States has made enriched uranium and heavy water export impossible. Iran will, therefore, stock it, and only Washington is to blame," said Vladimir Ermakov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control.

"As cynical as this sounds, Tehran is doing exactly what Washington was urging it to do through its recent 'nuclear' sanctions," he added.

In the meantime, he said, Iran's nuclear activities are currently in full compliance with the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 international nuclear deal.



"Iran has never violated the NPT [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons] and it has agreed to make unprecedented steps toward ensuring the transparency of its nuclear program within the so-called nuclear deal. Meanwhile, Washington's actions aimed at

undermining major international agreements that promote the strengthening of regional and global security are a real threat to the nuclear nonproliferation regime", Ermakov explained. The official noted with regret that the global community did not properly rebuff

"U.S. destructive policies".

"Russia and China prepared last year a working document in JCPOA support. However, Europeans and other U.S. allies were afraid to join our initiative. We all see the regrettable results of such an attitude", Ermakov concluded.

A year ago, the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and reimposed all sanctions lifted under the agreement. In response, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced on 8 May that Tehran would partially discontinue its commitments under the deal, giving Europe 60 days to ensure that Iran's interests were protected under the agreement.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that he expected to have a frank conversation about Iran with U.S. State Secretary Mike Pompeo. Lavrov also said that he hoped to hear an explanation of how Washington planned to solve the crisis around the JCPOA.

Iran says Israel is main source of all regional crises

1 → Seventy-one years ago on that day, a group of individuals, using racist and deviant ideas and thoughts as a pretext, killed or displaced the native people of Palestine, including innocent men and women, young and old, as well as children. In the history of the resistant nation of Palestine, this event is known as Nakba Day, which means the day of disaster and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

On Nakba Day, an illegitimate entity called the Zionist regime [of Israel] supported by the United States came into being by occupying the Palestinian land and continued to exist with war, crime and occupation, and has turned into the main source of all regional crises and a real threat to international peace and security.

While expressing its full solidarity with the cause of Pal-



estinian people, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again

reiterates the key responsibility of the international community, especially the United Nations, to put an end to the organized occupation of the Palestinian territory and holy Quds and to help the people of this land determine their destiny and establish an independent Palestinian state with al-Quds as its capital.

More than seven decades on since the [start of the] occupation of the historical Palestinian land, international circles are expected to take major steps to end the occupation, crimes and incessant acts of aggression by the Zionist regime and set the stage for the return of Palestinian refugees to their motherland and for holding a referendum attended by all major owners of this territory, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, in order to determine the type of their political system.

Half of B-Team were co-conspirators in disastrous Iraq war, Zarif says

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** - In a post on his Twitter page on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said half of those in the B-team were "co-conspirators in disastrous Iraq war".

The B-Team includes U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (also known as Bibi), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ).

Also in an open reference to sabotage attacks against oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates on Sunday,

Zarif said he had predicted such accidents because those in the B-Team are shamelessly following Bolton's policies in the West Asia region.

"In interviews in April, I predicted 'accidents'—not because I'm a genius— but because B-Team is so brazenly following Ambassador John Bolton's script," Zarif stated.

Zarif, who made visits to Turkmenistan on Monday and India on Tuesday, also said the interests of countries in the volatile West Asia region lies in promoting peace and security.

"Just had excellent talks in Turkmenistan and India. Those who actually live in our fragile neighborhood have a

real national security interest in promoting peace, stability, cooperation and connectivity. Iran remains a most accessible, efficient, sustainable and secure partner," Zarif tweeted.

In interviews in April, I predicted "accidents"—not because I'm a genius— but because #B_Team is so brazenly following @AmbJohnBolton's script (https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/08/iran-nuclear-deal-exit-strategy-john-bolton-memo-trump/ ...). After all, half of B-Team were co-conspirators in disastrous Iraq war. Stark reminder https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_PDpwl8kuY ...

Takht-e Ravanchi: Reports about U.S. Mideast deployment plan mere 'psychological warfare'

Press TV — Tehran's envoy to the United Nations dismisses as mere "psychological warfare" a reported U.S. military plan aimed at Iran, under which Washington could deploy tens of thousands of troops to the Middle East.

Majid Takht-e Ravanchi made the remarks to CNN on Tuesday in reaction to a report by The New York Times, which said the plan for the deployment of 120,000 troops to the Middle East had been recently discussed at a meeting of hawkish U.S. administration officials.

The report said the plan, which had been prepared by Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan upon the orders of National Security Advisor John Bolton, envisions sending as many as 120,000 troops to the Middle East "should Iran attack American forces or accelerate work on nuclear weapons."

Iran's UN ambassador said, "These are all psychological warfare in our opinion."

Iran is not inclined either towards triggering a regional conflict or pursuing nuclear weapons, he asserted.

"We are not in the business of trying to create a conflict in our neighborhood because nobody is going to have benefit from such a conflict in our region, except for a few, as I explained earlier, some people in Washington and some countries in our neighborhood," he added.

Who's endangering who?

He added that questions about posing security threats to others' interests had to be instead "directed to those people, who have come to our neighborhood from thousands of miles [away]." "Iran is in the Persian Gulf area. We are not in Gulf of Mexico," the official said. Takht-e Ravanchi further stipulated that seeking nuclear arms "is against our religion."

He cited a religious decree issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed

Ali Khamenei that prohibits such pursuit, adding, "Besides, nuclear weapons are not within the defense structure of Iran."

Under U.S. President Donald Trump, Washington has been eagerly leading a policy of "maximum pressure" against Tehran. The policy has Bolton as the person trying most to escalate it into military conflict. Employing the approach, the U.S. left a multi-lateral nuclear deal with Iran, which has the UK, France, Russia, China, and Germany as its other signatories, last year. It then reinstated the sanctions that had been lifted under the accord. The moves came while the deal had been ratified in the form of a United Nations Security Council resolution, making Washington culpable for violating international law.

Washington has also been trying to reduce Iran's oil exports to "zero," and sent an aircraft carrier strike group, a bomber

squad, an amphibious assault ship, and a Patriot missile battery to the Middle East to try to stack up pressure on Tehran. U.S. on war footing based on fake intel.

Pointing to what is claimed to be Iran's intention to target American interests in the region, Takht-e Ravanchi said the U.S. had used no more than just "fake intelligence" to try to justify the recent military build-up.

"These are all fake intelligence based on certain narrow-minded agenda, as I said, pursued by certain people in Washington as well as in our region," he stated.

The official, meanwhile, addressed Trump's recent proposal of "talks" with Iran. The so-called offer and the policy of pressure cannot coexist, he said, noting that Iran's submitting to such negotiation would be its bowing to coercion and intimidation.

MP urges Europeans to abide by their obligations

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hossein Naghavi Hosseini, a member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has said that the Europeans should abide by their obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In an interview with ISNA published on Tuesday, he said that Iran has fulfilled its obligations and Europe should do the same.

On May 8, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the pact, saying that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if it was not shielded from the sanctions' effects within 60 days.

U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the nuclear deal in May 2018 and ordered reimposition of sanctions against Iran. The first round of sanctions went into force on August 6 and the second round, which targets Iran's oil exports and banks, were snapped back on November 4.

Also, on April 22 the U.S. announced that Washington has

decided not to extend waivers allowing major importers to continue buying oil from Iran. The waivers ended on May 2.

On January 31, France, Germany and Britain announced the creation of INSTEX, a special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran.

On March 20, Iran's central bank governor Abdolnaser Hemmati announced that a mechanism similar to INSTEX has been registered in Iran, officially called the Special Trade and Finance Institute (STFI).

During a meeting with a group of Austrian MPs in Tehran on April 29, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi criticized European delay in implementing its special mechanism to save the JCPOA.

Speaking at the 9th round of Iran-Norway political consultations on April 30, Araghchi said the international community has not responded properly to the U.S. illegal act in withdrawing from the JCPOA.

"The U.S. proved that it does not understand language of respect and interaction and can just talk with language



of bullying," he said.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Monday that it is essential to implement the nuclear deal.

In an interview published online by Le Parisien on Saturday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also said that it is a pity that the U.S. is not honoring its commitments under the nuclear deal.

deal, with many U.S. politicians opposing the Trump administration's withdrawal from the accord.

On May 8 Iran announced it would suspend part of its obligations under the JCPOA in retaliation for the U.S. exit from the nuclear agreement and a failure by the EU to redress the effects of sanctions on

the Iranian people. Iran said the EU has just 60 days to sit for negotiations to put the JCPOA on its right track otherwise it will take the next steps.

The measure by Iran took place exactly a year after President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the multilateral accord and ordered sanctions on Iran.

Top authorities meet Ayatollah Khamenei



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Heads of the three branches of government as well as top officials met on Tuesday with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The meeting, which took place on the 8th day of Ramadan, was also attended by top managers, parliamentarians and political, social and cultural activists, IRNA reported.

Party chief proposes allotting budget for local elections to flood-hit areas



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Asadollah Badamchian, secretary-general of the Islamic Coalition Party, has proposed that the budget allocated for the upcoming local council elections be spent in reconstruction of the flood-hit areas.

Badamchian made the request in a letter to Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

He suggested that because of the issues faced by the people of the flood-stricken areas, the local council elections should be postponed indefinitely.

Heavy rainfall, beginning on March 19, led to flooding in 28 out of 31 provinces across the country. It affected more than 42 million inhabitants in 253 cities and caused widespread damage to municipal facilities, including health centers and hospitals.

The provinces which were hit hard by the floods were Khuzestan, Golestan, Mazandaran, and Lorestan.

The floods left 78 people dead and 1,137 injured. As many as 295,000 people have been displaced.

Destruction of pipelines and roads as well as closing up the wells in order to prevent the oil spill into the water were also some of the damages caused by the devastating floods.

Israelis might be behind UAE incidents, Iranian MP says



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Behrouz Nemati, spokesman for the Majlis presiding board, said on Tuesday that the Israelis might have been behind the recent incidents in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Four commercial ships were targets of a sabotage attack off the UAE coast on Sunday. The incident reportedly took place near Fujairah port, just outside the Strait of Hormuz, but caused no casualties.

Saudi Arabia confirmed that two Saudi oil tankers sustained "significant damage". Another vessel was Norwegian-registered, whilst the fourth was reportedly UAE-flagged.

Meanwhile, Iran, which borders the strait, called for a full investigation.

"It seems that the recent incidents in the Emirates were the misdemeanors of the Israelis," Nemati said, according to ISNA.

Speaking about a closed session of the parliament earlier in the day, the lawmaker said the incident was one of the issues raised during the session.

He added that the official stance of the Islamic Republic is the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry.

On Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abbas Mousavi said the UAE incidents were "alarming" and "regrettable".

Mousavi called for the clarification of the exact dimensions of the incident.

Referring to the negative impact of these incidents on shipping safety and maritime security, he warned against plots by "ill-wishers" to disrupt regional security.

Mousavi also called for the vigilance of regional states in the face of any adventurism by foreign elements.

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A top lawmaker believes that the United States has waged a psychological war against the Islamic Republic.

"The U.S. scenario is aimed at maximum tension with Iran, but with no military strike," Alireza Rahimi, a member of the parliament's presiding board, said in an

interview with the Iran Press published on Tuesday.

"The main objective of the United States is to wage a psychological war against Tehran."

Pointing to Washington's ill-considered and hasty withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, the senior MP said there is plenty of internal opposition to U.S. abrogation of the

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	211746.3
IFX	2588.11

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,206 rials
GBP	54,443 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$70.40/b
WTI	\$61.05/b
OPEC Basket	\$70.66/b
Gold	1,298.60/oz
Silver	\$14.80/oz
Platinum	\$861.50/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Iran’s budget reliance on oil revenues down to 30%: Jahangiri

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**— Iran has reduced its budget reliance on oil incomes to 30 percent through efforts made during the recent years, Iranian First Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri underlined.

The official said it is while the country’s budget reliance on the oil revenues was previously 80 to 90 percent, Fars news agency reported on Tuesday.

In the 17.03 quadrillion rials (about \$405 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) budget bill for Iran’s current Iranian year (began on March 21, 2019), oil income is estimated at 1.425 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion).

Monthly passenger car imports down 67% year on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran’s imports of passenger cars during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 2019) fell 67 percent compared to the same month of the previous year, Tasnim news agency reported citing the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The IRICA data show that the country imported 330 passenger cars from South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Germany and China in the first month of this year.

As previously announced by Iran’s Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, Iranian carmakers manufactured 42,623 vehicles in Farvardin of this year.

The ministry’s data show that car manufacturing in Iran has fallen 47.2 percent in the first month of this year from 80,794 cars manufactured in the same month of the previous year.

Europe’s economy not yet on solid ground as business sweats

Europe has a long way to go if it’s to deliver on the hope sparked by recent economic numbers.

While there are hints that the bloc’s sharp deceleration is ending, there’s no escaping fresh doubts over global trade, ongoing weakness in German manufacturing, uncertainty over China’s growth, and Brexit. That’s got some of Europe’s big corporate names continuing to warn of a “volatile” backdrop.

According to finance.yahoo,euro-area GDP growth topped expectations at 0.4% in the first quarter, and a similar number is predicted on Wednesday from Germany, the region’s biggest economy. That would signal the outlook isn’t as bad as feared, but sustaining the upturn probably requires a clear improvement in confidence to help investment and demand. A European Commission sentiment measure has been falling almost non-stop and is down 9% since the start of 2018.

A swift reversal looks less likely since the U.S. unleashed new trade tariffs on China on Friday, and China said it’ll retaliate. Add escalating tensions in the Middle East and oil prices up 30% this year and it’s a mix that doesn’t appear conducive to inspiring “animal spirits.”

■ Slapping levies on car imports

The car industry is under particular pressure. It was already facing issues including weaker Chinese demand, disruption from new emissions tests, and the transition to electric. U.S. tariffs -- President Donald Trump is due to decide by May 18 whether to slap levies on car imports, though the date could be extended -- would be a damaging blow.

On a call to discuss earnings last week, BMW Chairman Harald Krueger described 2019 as “another challenging year; our environment remains volatile and dominated by uncertainty.”

Volkswagen’s Audi suffered a 13% slide in April sales, and such results are spilling over to suppliers. Car parts maker Continental on Thursday reported a drop in first-quarter income, though it sees a better second half.

The “economic backdrop remains uncertain -- German industry has not clearly emerged from its soft patch and the threat of U.S. auto tariffs continues to loom,” Chris Hare, an economist at HSBC, said in a report on Monday. “There are plenty of reasons to remain cautious about the growth outlook for Europe.”

CBI admonishes EU for being all words on INSTEX

ECONOMY

TEHRAN — The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) criticized the European parties of the Iran nuclear deal for repeating ‘threadbare’ remarks over their promised trade mechanism for Iran (INSTEX) and failing in realizing their promises.

“It has been some two months since Iran created the Special Trade and Finance Institute (STFI) which is a mirror company to INSTEX. The easiest way to operationalize INSTEX and STFI is for the Europeans to start importing oil from Iran or granting a letter of credit to European exporters to the country,” Abdolnasser Hemmati wrote in an Instagram post on Monday.

Mentioning the Europeans’ concerns over U.S. reaction the official said, “They



can simply test their ability by exporting emergency supplies and medicine.”

“The ball of implementing INSTEX is now in Europe’s court,” he added.

In late January 2018, European signatories of JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) announced the establishment of a special trade mechanism dubbed as INSTEX (Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges) in a bid to save JCPOA after the withdrawal of the United States from it. INSTEX, which has yet to become operational, is registered in Paris and headed by German banker Per Fischer who visited Iran last week and discussed the status of the mechanism with Iranian officials.

The mechanism is said to initially cover trades of food, medicine and medical devices and to gradually include other areas.

Pakistan to pay a heavy price if Iran takes legal action on IP: Pak min

ECONOMY

TEHRAN — Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Tuesday that halting the multi-billion dollar Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project is going to cost Pakistan a heavy penalty, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the local media, the official expressed concern over tension between Iran and the United States, saying it is impacting the region.

The official who briefed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs in Islamabad, noted that Pakistan is looking to make progress on the project but there are some third party hurdles including sanctions against Iran.

He said Pakistan is discussing this issue with Iran.

Qureshi further pointed to his country’s financial problems saying, although the IP

pipeline is a great project and will contribute significantly to the future of Pakistan’s energy supply, currently the country is wrestling with financial problems.

On Monday, Pakistani daily Express Tribune reported that a high-ranking Iranian delegation is due to visit Islamabad in near future to discuss the stalled Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project (known as IP project).

Near 20 years after the initiation of talks over the peace gas pipeline, beginning as the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project, and despite the fact that Iran has completed its part of the pipeline in its territory, Pakistan has fallen behind the target to take delivery of gas, initially scheduled for 2014.

Pakistan blames U.S. sanctions on Iran as the main hurdle in the way of the IP project completion.

Tehran, Minsk discuss expansion of trade ties

ECONOMY

TEHRAN — Masoud Khansari, the head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), and Belarusian Ambassador to Tehran Yury Lazarchik met on Monday to discuss potentials of the two counties for economic cooperation.

As reported by the portal of TCCIMA, the two sides stressed the need for a trade mechanism and strong banking cooperation as the basis for expansion of trade ties.

In the meeting, Lazarchik expressed Minsk Chamber of Commerce’s readiness for hosting a business forum between Iranian and Belarusian private sectors’ representatives.

“In spite of the U.S. sanctions imposed against Iran, Iran and Belarus can expand economic ties,” the official added.

He pointed to some of trade opportuni-

ties between the two countries including agricultural and food products, agricultural and industrial machinery, wood products, as well as dried fruits, saying that with exchanging trade delegations and holding meetings between the private sectors of the two countries, the two sides would be able to identify potential areas for cooperation.

Khansari for his part emphasized the lack of banking relations as the main reason for the unsatisfactory trade relations between the two countries.

“Iran is ready to establish banking relations with Belarus, and the Belarusian government should also provide the ground for this cooperation as soon as possible,” he said.

TCCIMA is preparing to dispatch a trade delegation to Minsk in the Iranian calendar month of Tir (June 22 – July 22), to explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

Annual plan for tax income realized by 97%

ECONOMY

TEHRAN— Iran managed to collect 1.09 quadrillion rials (about \$25.952 billion) of tax revenues during the past Iranian calendar year of 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), showing that the country’s annual tax income plan has come true by 97 percent, according to the acting head of Iran’s National Tax Administration (INTA).

Mohammad-Qasem Panahi said the country had planned to earn 1.13 quadrillion rials (about \$26.904 billion) of tax incomes in the past year, IRNA reported.

The official further put direct taxes collected in the past year at 640 trillion rials (about \$15.238 billion), showing that the planned figure has come true by 101 percent and also showing 15 percent growth year on year.

He also put the revenues earned from taxes on the goods and services at 450 trillion rials (about \$10.714 billion), indicating that the planned figure has been materialized by 91 percent and also showing 11 percent rise year on year.

As announced by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), Iran’s tax income rose 14.1 percent during Iranian calendar year



of 1396 (ended on March 20, 2018) to reach 1.15 quadrillion rials (about \$27.38 billion).

Iran’s minerals, mining industries export up 43% in a month on year

ECONOMY

TEHRAN — The value of Iran’s minerals and mining industries exports has risen 43 percent during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 2019) from the figure of the same month in the past year, Mohammadreza Modoudi, the acting head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), told Tasnim news agency on Tuesday.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran’s non-oil trade stood at \$4.87 billion during Farvardin.

As reported, the worth of non-oil trade during the first month of this Iranian calendar year fell 13.5 percent compared to that of the

same month of the past year.

Although, the country recorded a non-oil trade surplus of \$213 million in Farvardin of this year.

Iran exported 8.52 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$2.54 billion during the first month, registering a 7.66-percent increase in weight, but an 18.25-percent decline in value compared to the first month of the previous year.

Monthly non-oil imports amounted to 2.08 million tons worth \$2.33 billion, up 7.75 percent in weight, but down 7.65 percent in value year on year.

As previously announced by IRICA, the value of Iran’s non-oil exports stood at \$44.3

billion in the previous year while \$42.6 billion worth of commodities were shipped into the country.

Iranian mining sector witnessed some prominent growth both in production and export during the past Iranian calendar year.

According to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the value of Iran’s minerals and mining industries’ exports stood at \$9.226 billion in the past year.

IMIDRO data indicate that the steel products account for the lion’s share of the exports from this sector in the past year, with the value of \$4.1 billion.



Global markets fall as China hits back at U.S. with new import tariffs

World markets plunged further on Tuesday following heavy losses on Wall Street after China delivered a swift rebuff to Donald Trump by imposing retaliatory tariffs on \$60bn of U.S. imports. According to The Guardian, Beijing ignored warnings from Trump about the dangers of escalating the trade conflict and sent tremors through global markets by announcing a new 25% import duty on a range of U.S. products.

In early trade on Tuesday, Hong Kong led losses when the market reopened after a long weekend. The Hang Seng Index sank 1.7% while Shanghai shed 0.2% and Tokyo was off 0.7% at the break.

Sydney and Singapore each dropped more than one percentage point, with Manila and Jakarta both down 1.6%. There were also losses in Taipei and Wellington, though Seoul edged up slightly. Medha Samant, director of investment at Fidelity International, told Bloomberg TV: “In the short term, it looks like volatility is here to stay and we could see this risk-off, risk-on going on for a long time.”

The retreat came after the Nasdaq on Wall Street suffered its worst day of 2019 and the Dow ended at its lowest point in more than three months.

■ The tit-for-tat battle

In the latest stage of the tit-for-tat battle between the world’s

two biggest economies, China targeted almost 2,500 products, from food and consumer goods to chemicals and machinery, and said the increases would come into force next month.

Apple, Boeing and Caterpillar were the biggest casualties of a global market sell-off as investors concluded that they would be among the companies most affected by China’s action.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 600 points, both it and the S&P 500 recording their biggest losses since January, after hopes of a speedy resolution to the dispute were replaced by fears of a long and damaging trade war.

In London, the blue-chip FTSE 100 fell 39 points, or 0.55%, to end Monday at 7,163, its lowest level since 13 March, while the FTSE 250 index of medium-sized, more UK-focused companies, fell more than 1.2% to a six-week low. The Europe-wide Stoxx 600 index also hit a two-month low, down 1.2%. Consumer goods-makers and technology firms led the fallers.

Trump has drawn up plans to extend U.S. tariffs to the \$300b-plus of Chinese imports not currently targeted, while there were hints from Beijing that it would start to sell some of the U.S. Treasury bonds it holds.

■ The draft trade deal

The U.S. president took action last week after what the U.S.

considered backtracking by China’s president, Xi Jinping, on commitments contained in a 150-page draft trade deal between the two countries.

But despite warnings from Trump of the risks of retaliation, China said it would “never surrender” to U.S. pressure.

In a series of tweets, Trump said: “I say openly to President Xi & all of my many friends in China that China will be hurt very badly if you don’t make a deal because companies will be forced to leave China for other countries. Too expensive to buy in China. You had a great deal, almost completed, & you backed out!”

China criticized the White House for its “escalation of Sino-U.S. economic and trade frictions, contrary to the consensus between China and the United States on resolving trade differences through consultations, jeopardizing the interests of both sides and not meeting the general expectations of the international community.”

Andrew Hunter of Capital Economics, said China’s move would risk provoking Trump. “That could make the prospect of U.S. tariffs being imposed on the remaining \$300bn of Chinese imports — provisional details of which were due to be published by the U.S. trade representative later on Monday — even more likely.”

What's Behind Israeli Violence in Palestine?



TEHRAN (FNA) — The international community should stop fueling human rights violations in besieged Gaza and occupied Palestine, and that could happen only through ending institutional impunity for Israel.

It is in line with this policy that Israel deliberately continues to provoke Gazans with military operations and covert terrorist actions. It also provokes Palestinians by continued desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as raids, arrests and attacks against their property - including targeting Gaza protesters.

As international human rights groups hold, the current situation cannot be explained, addressed or remedied without a clear-eyed look at its root causes, which remain Israel's violations of international law and brutal control of the Occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The international civil society should withdraw support from the bloodshed by halting military aid, political backing and institutionalized impunity for Israel. The root cause for all this and more is this: Israel's continued violations of international law, including its brutal and illegal military occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories that has lasted decades and its racist policies against Palestinian citizens of the Holy Land.

Let there be any doubt, Palestinians have taken to the Gaza border to tell the world that they are no longer willing to remain accustomed to Israel's continued blockade, confiscation of their land and the displacement of its inhabitants; the demolition of their homes; the aggressive expansion of settler colonies; settler violence against Palestinians and their property facilitated by the regime; torture and ill-treatment; and increasing numbers of arbitrary arrests and administrative detentions.

To fight back, the criminal occupation is intensifying, with Israeli forces sealing off Palestinian neighbourhoods; imposing more severe sentencing guidelines for not just stone-throwing people but also those accused of stone-throwing; and using excessive force — including live fire — against peaceful crowds of protesters. Unsurprisingly, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to incite further violence by falsely claiming that his forces are fighting terrorists.

The Palestinian civil society is now calling on the international community to take steps to halt this systemic violence and apartheid. This needs to be heeded in the United States too. It is American weapons and diplomatic support at the UN that enable Israel to carry out its illegal policies of blockade, extrajudicial assassination, collective punishment and colonization of Palestinian land. Simply put, the usurper regime is the darling of the War Party in Washington.

Sadly enough, the United Nations has agreed to conspire in this. It is not doing anything about it, despite the fact that violates international law and Palestinians' rights. It is past time for the international community to assume its responsibilities. They must insist on the inviolability and universality of human rights, and call for an immediate change in Western-American policy toward Palestine. They must also call on the UN to demand an immediate stop to the Judaization of Palestine and an unconditional lifting of the Gaza Blockade.

The cost of Trump's behaviors for the United States



the two traditional American parties could change the American authorities' policies towards our country. The hostility of the U.S. Democrats and Republicans to our nation, and the vicious and extensive efforts of the two to confront the foundations of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, have been proven to all. In this equation, there's no difference between Jimmy Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama, and Trump.

Anyway, today is a government in the United States, whose foreign policy is not approved by many American citizens!

As Usa Today reported, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro is deriding President Donald Trump as foolish for trying to oust him. Kim Jong Un is testing Trump's "love" – and his resolve – in the North Korea negotiations. And Iran's leaders are finding new ways to threaten the U.S. and to defy the president's

“maximum pressure” campaign.

In short, Trump's foreign policy agenda is hitting the diplomatic rocks, with potentially disastrous results.

Some say it's by design – Trump doesn't mind sowing chaos and confusion, and he has. Others say it's a result of misguided policies and contradictory, undisciplined decision-making inside the White House.

Either way, the president has suffered a series of stunning foreign policy setbacks this week, raising fresh questions about his approach to military engagement and international affairs.

"What you see is a mismatch between means and ends across the board – whether it's in Venezuela, whether it's in North Korea, whether it's in Iran – where the end's always extremely ambitious and the diplomatic means tend to be quite de minimis," said Robert Malley, a senior White House adviser on the Middle East, North Africa in the Obama administration. "We're courting danger where there's no reason to."

Finally, the United States has suffered a lot of disadvantages due to the controversial foreign policy of Donald Trump. These costs will increase exponentially in the future. Undoubtedly, the effects of the presence of Trump at the White House will not be limited to him and the current US government, and other US presidents will have to bear these harsh costs in the coming years.

U.S.-China: much more than just trade talks

By Marshall Auerback

Asia Times — Just when it appeared that Washington and Beijing were inching closer to concluding their trade negotiations (thereby bringing a cessation to the escalating conflict), the US president has thrown a new grenade in China's direction. Donald Trump "threatened to raise tariffs on all Chinese imports to 25%, sharply ratcheting up pressure on Beijing to make concessions in trade talks and sending global equities markets sliding," write James Politi, Courtney Weaver, Tom Mitchell and Yuan Yang of the Financial Times.

Win or lose, anything that creates the perception that the administration is standing up for the rights of American workers (even at a cost of repudiating decades of free-trade ideology) could cement Trump's growing popularity within a traditional Democratic Party constituency. Many blue-collar voters tried to send a message of change in 2016 when they voted for Trump. These voices are particularly germane in Midwestern states, which basically secured the necessary Electoral College votes required to put Trump in the White House.

Politics aside, the trade talks create dilemmas for both sides: Capital markets in both countries have revived, as expectations have grown that the two nations will resolve this increasingly acrimonious dispute, albeit on terms that largely retain the status quo.

Trump in particular has done much to elevate those ex-

pections in his Twitter account, even as it became increasingly apparent that the nature of the deal was unlikely to do anything more than induce Beijing to make further large-scale purchases of American exports, as opposed to undertaking structural reforms of the kind that would likely rectify some long-standing US grievances, such as the appropriation of intellectual property, cyber-theft, and inadequate access to Beijing's domestic markets, to cite a few prominent examples.

Similarly, President Xi Jinping is looking for a deal that gets rid of the tariffs and avoids a new shock to a Chinese economy, which is now recovering from last year's tariff-induced trauma via a significant new credit provision from the government.

The problem, as Trump seems to appreciate (albeit belatedly, if one is to judge from the timing of his latest tweet storms), is that he can't afford to be perceived as weak on trade. It has been one of his signature issues since his 2016 campaign. But confronting Beijing on the structural issues, and concomitantly causing a breakup of the supply chains that are the foundation of today's "Chimerica" nexus, likely entails creating transitory economic dislocation in the United States (as well as further major setbacks



in the stock market), hardly the sort of thing that the US president would like to see happen in the run-up to the 2020 election campaign. As New York magazine's *Intelligencer* columnist Josh Barro starkly puts it:

“One, [Trump] wants to be seen to be ‘tough’ on China trade, and two, he wants the stock market to go up. The problem is, the stock market hates trade wars, and when the president threatens (or actually imposes) higher tariffs on Chinese goods, stock prices fall.”

Any dislocation, financial or economic, would also constitute a political gift to the Democrats.


So the essence of the conundrum is this: Is Trump willing to take a short-term hit among certain traditional Republican constituencies in order to secure the longer-term changes that his chief US trade adviser, Robert Lighthizer, has long advocated as essential to preserve the livelihoods of American workers? Not only is there a political hit, but the very magnitude of the potential retaliation Trump and Lighthizer have proposed – vastly increased tariffs, along with the aggressive use of various World Trade Organization (WTO) sanctions to counter Beijing – also constitutes a repudiation of more than half a century of US trade policy and ideology, as well as disrupting traditional political alliances with key Republican constituencies.

In regard to the latter, Trump's actions could well herald the start of a major political realignment. This may already be starting. In response to the Republican Party's increasing embrace of Trumpian-style populism, for example, the US Chamber of Commerce is now looking to "disentangle its brand from the GOP," writes the Washington Post. It has spoken about rebuilding the center, ironically echoing the language of the self-proclaimed progressive, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who has similarly warned Democrats to hew to the center in order to beat Trump next year. Barring a Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren nomination, therefore, the Democrats could well find themselves with an unlikely new champion in the form of a Chamber of Commerce endorsement next year.

This wouldn't trouble many of the non-traditional Republicans, who currently dominate trade policy in the administration. As far as trade itself goes, Trump seems to be inching toward the kind of right-wing populism initially advocated by figures like Steve Bannon and self-proclaimed "blue collar conservatives," such as Rick Santorum or Pat Buchanan. These figures (and many others) have long sought to reconfigure the Republican Party as the one for American workers, even at a cost of closing off portions of the economy via protectionism, if it means more jobs at home for US workers.

Rightly or wrongly, this kind of political recalibration could well be one of the by-products of the prospective trade agreement with China. It would therefore have significant electoral implications in 2020, where the Midwest Rust Belt is likely to remain the key battleground region that will determine the winner of the presidency.

On the other hand, even if the talks do break down (this now appears more likely), and Trump follows through on



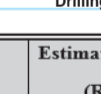
N.I.O.C
1398.827

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

One -Stages (semi compressed) tender

Subject of Tender: Parts For Caterpillar Equipment



National Iranian Drilling Company

• Tender descriptions

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3199538	Tender No.:FP/09-98/012 Indent No.:01-22-9747002	46,443,243,850

• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	
	R Based on minimum scoring (60 Points) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.
	1- Applicants who have more than 4 in process contracts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender. Applicants which have more than 2 in process contracts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender

• Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company		
	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.	
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN – Tel : 061 34148601
	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Avoid any payment other than the bank method (in person) and also provide a deposit. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
Documents Receiving Method	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

• Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	
	2,323,000,000 Rial/ 48,812 Euro
Type of guarantee	✓•Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓•Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir <http://sapp.ir/nidc-pr>

تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵

Upping the Ante: U.S. officials threaten Iran...again

1 → By this time, U.S. economic terrorism against the Iran had resumed with a vengeance. On May 15, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on the governor of Iran's Central Bank and other senior bankers. The next day, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates followed suit with sanctions targeting alleged Iranian Revolutionary Guard's funding of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Resistance Movement. Additional sanctions against Iranian individuals and organizations followed on May, 16, 17, 22, 24 and 30, at which time treasury secretary Steve Mnuchin charged, "Iran not only exports terrorism and instability across the world, it routinely violates the rights of its own people." Mnuchin then had the unmitigated impudence to claim, "America stands with the people of Iran..."

Next, on October 3, 2018, Pompeo announced that the U.S. was abrogating the 1955 Treaty of Amity with Iran, additionally declaring that the rogue regime in Washington had no intention of complying with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling, which ordered the U.S. to remove sanctions that could deter the flow of humanitarian aid to Iran. In his remarks to the press, Pompeo insisted, "We're working closely with the Department of the Treasury to ensure that certain humanitarian-related transactions involving Iran can and will continue."

The ICJ order on 3 October in the case of Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America is very specific. The court ruled, "The USA, through the 8 May and announced further sanctions referred to in the present Application, with respect to Iran, Iranian nationals and companies, has breached its obligations to Iran under Articles IV (1), VII (1), VIII (1), VIII (2), IX (2) and X (1) of the Treaty of Amity," and ordered that "The USA shall, by means of its own choosing, terminate the 8 May sanctions without delay," and further that "The USA shall fully compensate Iran for the violation of its international legal obligations in an amount to be determined by the Court at a subsequent stage of the



proceedings."

Clearly, the U.S. was in violation of the 1955 Amity Treaty with Iran, so rather than live up to its terms, Trump simply shredded it. As a result, humanitarian aid cannot flow directly or even easily to Iran, as was made obvious for all, except those with a diseased heart, by the recent catastrophic floods that inundated most of the Islamic Republic in mid-March. Iranian expatriates and other concerned persons who wanted to help were unable to send aid money to the Iranian Red Crescent, in direct conflict with Pompeo's arrogant claims. The writer can attest to this from personal experience, finding that it was impossible to wire money directly from a U.S. bank account to the Iranian Red Crescent's account at Mellat Bank's Hejrat branch in Tehran. The bank officer said that Swift Code: BKMTIRTHO15 was simply "not eligible."

The current "Iran as a threat" scenario with the associated military buildup in the Persian Gulf region displays a disturbing but familiar pattern for those of us who watched in horror as Bush II deployed combat forces

to Kuwait in preparation for his illegal invasion of Iraq. In a way eerily similar to the actions taken by George W. Bush in the run-up to the Iraq war, Trump is sending B-52 bombers and the Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier group to the Persian Gulf based on intelligence, which alleges Iran is mobilizing proxy forces in Iraq and Syria for the purpose of attacking American troops. Not surprisingly, the source of the intelligence appears to be the Zionist regime.

Since the current occupant of the Oval Office seems committed to wipe the Obama legacy from the face of time (to paraphrase former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad), the Iran nuclear deal, being part of that legacy, had to go almost without further consideration. Furthermore, Steven Simon of the influential International Institute for Strategic Studies writes, "Trump's small cadre of conservative Jewish donors tend to align with the policies of Israel's governing Likud coalition, which regards Iran as an existential danger to Israel, and the JCPOA as aiding and abetting this threat."

A compulsive warmonger, Bolton has openly called for bombing Iran as the only way to stop the Islamic Republic on its inevitable—at least in his hyperactive imagination—trajectory toward acquiring nuclear weapons. In a 2015 op-ed published in the New York Times, Bolton insisted that, despite any "palpable proof, like a nuclear test" to support his opinion, "Iran's steady progress toward nuclear weapons has long been evident." Bolton informed readers that somehow, other Middle East nations knew that "Israel's nukes were intended as a deterrent, not as an offensive measure." Then egregiously, he asserted, "Iran is a different story." The piece continues with the absurd argument that, while the Zionist's nukes have prevented a regional, if not world-wide, arms race, the JCPOA, on the other hand, would cause one. As to the specifics of the bombing, Bolton wrote, "Rendering inoperable the Natanz and Fordow uranium-enrichment installations and the Arak heavy-water production facility and reactor would be priorities." The bombing raids "should be combined with vigorous American support for Iran's opposition," he averred, "aimed at regime change in Tehran."

Bolton's pathological pursuit of war with Iran and toppling the legal government of Iran could be treated as a plot taken from the comics, were it not for the fact that thousands of innocent lives would be jeopardized by such illegal, irrational and irresponsible ante-upping behavior. Indeed, COMICS would be an appropriate acronym for the U.S. considering its conduct; that is, the Chauvinistic, Opportunistic, Militaristic, Impudent Corporate States.

For his part, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif included Bolton as a member of the troublesome troika dubbed as the B-team, which also includes Benjamin Netanyahu and Muhammad Bin Salman. For my part, count me on the side of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this imbroglio imposed by the United States. I only wish I could be there in Iran instead of here in the "belly of the beast."

Pompeo displays US insolence to Europe



Global Times —The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in a speech at a London conference, almost imperatively asked Britain to change its attitude toward China and Chinese telecom equipment company Huawei. He wanted Britain to treat China like the so-called Soviet threat to the West.

He also mocked Prime Minister Theresa May without naming her by mentioning former prime minister Margaret Thatcher. He said: "Would the Iron Lady be silent when China violates the sovereignty of nations through corruption or coercion? Would she allow China to control the internet of the future?"

Pompeo no longer considers the minimum respect for the special ally of the US. The British must have mixed feelings about Pompeo's display of arrogance. A commentary in The Guardian titled "Mike Pompeo: a bully boy calls at No 10" writes that Pompeo wants to discuss "shared global priorities" with Theresa May, but he himself is a problem. The attitude of the US toward European allies has never been as arrogant as it is now. Even during the Cold War, when Europe was most dependent on US security, Washington gave credit to its allies.

But look at how the US ambassador in Berlin urged Germany not to allow Huawei to provide 5G infrastructure to the country. The US ambassador also threatened German companies building the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Germany and Russia by warning them about the risk of sanctions. And now look at what Pompeo said in Britain; Washington is increasingly not treating Europe as a partner that needs equal treatment and respect, but as a small follower who should listen to the elder brother.

China is fundamentally different from the Soviet Union. Even most Americans do not see China as "another Soviet Union," not to mention European countries which have no obvious geopolitical disputes with China. Although European countries, including Britain, worry that China's development may affect their interests, they are more willing to explore their development opportunities from the rise of China. They generally attach importance to expanding cooperation with China, and Britain has realistic thinking of the "golden era" in relations between China and Britain.

As China is indeed not the Soviet Union, it will be hard for the likes of Pompeo to peddle the same defense against China as against the Soviet Union. Washington wants to push the "China threat theory" to the extreme, but what it lacks most is reason. Getting European countries to align their China policies with those of the US to help it contain China is certainly not something Washington can do. Expanding cooperation is the main theme of China-EU relations, which cannot be changed by a selfish US

Iran's Rejection of Washington Consensus Main Reason behind U.S. Pressures: Analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — An American political analyst said Iran's pursuit of independent policy and its refusal to be incorporated into the Washington Consensus are the main reasons behind the Trump administration's pressure campaign against it.

"The objective of these officials is to continue to carry out a longstanding plan that was developed in the 1990s by the leadership of the neoconservative movement which has controlled US foreign policy in the Middle East for decades. The plan has always been to eliminate independent nations in the region that refuse to be incorporated into the Washington Consensus that was developed at the end of the Cold War. The idea behind the Washington Consensus is that the United States should be the de facto world government that rules on a unipolar basis, and that nations that refuse to be incorporated into the American empire should be subjugated or destroyed," Keith Preston, the chief editor and director of attackthesystem.com, told the Tasnim news agency in an interview.

Keith Preston was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, United States. He received degrees in Religious Studies, History, and Sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the founder and director of American Revolutionary Vanguard and the chief editor of AttacktheSystem.Com. He has also been a contributor to LewRockwell.Com, Antiwar.Com, Anti-State.Com, Taki's Magazine, Radix Journal, and AlternativeRight.Com. He is the author of six books, and was awarded the 2008 Chris R. Tame Memorial Prize by the United Kingdom of the Libertarian Alliance. Keith has been a featured speaker at conferences of the National Policy Institute, H. L. Mencken Club, and Anarchapulco. He has been interviewed on numerous radio programs and internet broadcasts, and appeared as a guest analyst on Russia Today, Press TV and the BBC.

The following is the full text of the interview.

■ Late Sunday night, the White House made an announcement that the USS Abraham Lincoln and a bomber task force were being deployed in response to unspecified "troubling and escalatory indications and warnings." What is your take on the deployment?

A: Preston: It would appear that officials in the Trump administration are attempting to create a scenario that could be used as pretext for initiating a military attack on Iran. The vagueness of the statements that have been issued by the administration indicates that claims of any actually existing threat being posed by Iran are dubious. A similar situation occurred in 1964 when two supposed confrontations between a US naval destroyer and North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin were used as a pretext for the subsequent American invasion of South Vietnam and the eventual attacks on North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Years later, it was revealed that the American naval vessel had actually fired first on the North Vietnamese boats during the first confrontation, and that the second confrontation had been entirely fabricated. However, these incidents were the catalyst that led the US Congress to pass the Gulf of Tonkin resolution which authorized military action in Vietnam, and led to America's direct military involvement in Southeast Asia for the subsequent eight years. Incredibly, the officials in the Trump adminis-

tration appear to be trying to recreate the scenario that led to the Vietnam War.

■ A statement from National Security Adviser John Bolton said the deployments were intended "to send a clear and unmistakable message to Iran that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force." Why do you think Bolton, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Israeli PM are pushing the US into a war with Iran?

A: The objective of these officials is to continue to carry out a longstanding plan that was developed in the 1990s by the leadership of the neoconservative movement which has controlled US foreign policy in the Middle East for decades. The plan has always been to eliminate independent nations in the region that refuse to be incorporated into the Washington Consensus that was developed at the end of the Cold War. The idea behind the Washington Consensus is that the United States should be the de facto world government that rules on a unipolar basis, and that nations that refuse to be incorporated into the American empire should be subjugated or destroyed. In addition to the process of empire-building, American foreign policy in the Middle East is motivated by a desire to control the energy and other natural resources of the region such as petroleum, natural gas, and minerals. Maintaining high profit margins for America's armaments industries is also a motivation, and nations such as Israel and Saudi Arabia are major export markets for US arms, with arms sales to these countries being underwritten by American taxpayers. The interests of Israel and Saudi Arabia, both of which are nations that exercise considerable influence over US foreign policy, are also involved. Both Israel and Saudi Arabia, along with the nations of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, wish to eliminate nations in the region that they regard as rivals, and which are barriers to their own expansionist objectives. The current belligerence toward Iran is a continuation of the policies that led to the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Libya, as well as ongoing US military involvement in various South Asian and African nations. In fact, a parallel situation is occurring at the present time in Venezuela in Latin America. The Western axis within global capitalism and its allies seek universal global domination, and nations that wish to pursue their own course are considered a threat to Western imperial hegemony.

■ The deployment of the warship was reportedly based on claims of a possible attack on US forces stationed in the region. So far, there is little detail from the Americans of the alleged Iranian actions that have prompted this warning nor of the specific US deployments underway. It seems that the Trump administration is looking for pretexts to wage war. How do you see this? What is the goal of the administration?

A: If any actual attacks on US forces had occurred, the administration would have certainly revealed that such attacks had taken place. US officials are simply fabricating claims concerning supposed actions taken by Iran in order to escalate hostilities toward Iran. The administration may be trying to provoke a hostile action by Iran, or inflame public opinion in the United States against Iran. Whether the US actually intends to wage war against Iran remains to be seen. However, it is

clear that the US wants to force regime change in Iran by means of economic sanctions, political pressure, and military threats. US officials such as Bolton and Pompeo are certainly not adverse to a war with Iran. Bolton has been agitating for a US-Iran war for years. However, they may be concerned about the political feasibility of such an action.

■ Many critics of the administration fear a developing drumbeat towards a conflict which, they fear, could erupt either by accident or by design. Iranian state and military officials have repeatedly stressed that Iran will never start a war and it will only defend itself. What are your thoughts on this?

A: I certainly do not think Iran will start a war with the US. Iran would have little if anything to gain from such an action and much to lose. Clearly, if a war between the two nations starts, it will be at the initiative of the US. An aggressive action against Iran by the United States would be very consistent with the foreign policy objectives the US has pursued for decades. Once again, the only constraint on the actions of US officials is the political and military feasibility of such an action. Military aggression by the US against Iran would be very unpopular from the perspective of world opinion, and probably within the domestic US as well. It would also be very costly from an economic and military perspective. However, such considerations did not prevent the 2003 Iraq War from occurring, and it may not prevent a war with Iran from taking place. Yet a war between the US and Iran would ultimately be disastrous for all parties involved as the previous US-initiated wars have been.

Second Announcement			
Call for public tender (First/Second publish)			
Two Stages (semi compressed) tender			
Subject of Tender: (THREE CONE BITS)			
N.I.O.C 1398.829		National Iranian Drilling Company	
• Tender descriptions			
The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,198,929	TenderNo. PFP/KSH/96/001 Indent No: 48-22-9522028	10,300,000,000
• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers			
Method Based on minimum scoring (60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.			
1. The tenderers who have more than four (4) active contracts with NIDC are not allowed to attend in this tender.			
2. The tenderers who have more than two (2) active contracts with same subject (exactly compliance with this subject) with NIDC are not allowed to attend in this tender.			
• Purchasing & Submitting			
Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.		
Distribution Place	A) Hall No.:316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept.(DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.06134148		
Submitting Method	B) Jomhouri street , yaghma alley nio; 8th building floor no : 04 room no 428 -tehran-iran .02166700249		
Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of ... Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. Of Iran Central Bank.			
Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.			
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date	14 Days after the last time of Purchasing.	
	Address	Hall NO.107, 1st floor, Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569	
• Tender Guarantee			
Value of guarantee	515,000,000 Rial/ 10,730 Euro		
Type of guarantee	• ✓ Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. • ✓ Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 400111400637 6636(Shaba No. IR350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.		
Duration of credit & quotation	"NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for onetime in initial validity duration.		
(Name of department)			
More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc-pr			
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times1979@gmail.com


تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵



N.I.O.C
1398.830

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
One -Stages tender



National Iranian Drilling Company

Subject of Tender: PARTS FOR "HHCT" SILICON CONTROL RECTIFIR SYSTEM (S.C.R&MCC)

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Ria/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,200,038	INDENT NO: 01-22-9746004 TenderNo.: FP/11-97/036	6,664,916,237

• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject.
	1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender. 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in <u>similar</u> subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender

• Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following seventh day thereof.	
	Distribution Place	Submitting Method Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing:
Documents Receiving Method	Address Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Alrpport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569	

• Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	333,250,000 RLS , 6,886 EURO	
Type of guarantee	✓...Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓...Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.	
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.	

(Name of department)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تايمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵

100,000 Iranians die of hypertension annually: official

HEALTH TEHRAN — About 100,000 Iranians die of high blood pressure annually, Afshin Ostovar, the Health Ministry's director for non-communicable diseases has said, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Hypertension is a common condition in which the long-term force of the blood against your artery walls is high enough that it may eventually cause health problems, such as heart disease.

The National Campaign for Controlling Hypertension, which begins on May 17, World Hypertension Day, focuses on the issue as one of the most important disease lead to cardiovascular disease, which has about 40 percent share of the death in Iran.

Hypertension causes about 100,000 deaths in the country, he said, adding that 22 percent of Iranian women and 21 percent of Iranian men suffer from high pressure.

In addition, one third of Iranian population above 30 suffer from hypertension, he noted.

During past 25 years, the number of Iranians suffering from hypertension has increased by three-fold in Iran, he explained.

Some 60 percent of people who have hypertension are aware of their disease and

about 6 million ones do not know about their hypertension, he said.

One of the main issues lead to hypertension is salt intake, which is three times more than standard amount is twice as much as global standards, he lamented.

World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that adults consume less than 5 grams (just under a teaspoon) of salt per day; however, based on global statistics, most people consume too much salt—on average 9–12 grams per day that is around twice the recommended maximum level of intake.

Besides over 50 percent of Iranians are insufficient physical active and smoking and alcohol consumption is on the third rank, he said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) insufficient physical activity is one of the leading risk factors for death worldwide. It is a key risk factor for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes. More than 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active.

As a part of national campaign, the blood pressure is checked in stations established in different places like schools, hospitals and



mosques, he said.

■ National Campaign for Controlling Hypertension

Kianoush Jahanpour, spokesman for Food and Drug Administration, said that according to the National Campaign for Controlling Hypertension, from May 17 to June 6, people are notified about the campaign, its subject and targets and from June 6 to July 6 the field works are carried out such as taking the blood pressure of target groups, registering their information and referring the patients to specialists.

"We anticipate that two million patients recognized by the campaign, which should be referred to specialists for further treatment," he said.

■ 97,000 deaths caused by hypertension

Some 97,000 Iranians died of diseases caused by hypertension in 2017, according to Dr. Ramin Heshmat, who is an associate professor of epidemiology in Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

"Unfortunately, among 15 million Iranians who have high blood pressure, only 60% are aware of their condition; additionally, only half the patients who are aware of their hypertension, receive medication for it."

"From 1990 to 2016, the prevalence of high blood pressure among Iranian adults grew three times," said Dr. Heshmat.

"Unfortunately, among 15 million Iranians who have high blood pressure, only 60% are aware of their condition; additionally, only half the patients who are aware of their hypertension, receive medication for it."

High-tech flow cytometer starts operation

HEALTH TEHRAN — The most advanced Flow Cytometer, used for studies on vaccine and biological agents, was installed in Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, said the director of institute's Central Lab and Biotechnology Research.

Flow cytometry is a technique used to detect and measure physical and chemical characteristics of a population of cells or particles.

According to Seyyed Reza Bani-Hashemi, the device is majorly used for analyzing immune and cellular responses to vaccines and biologic agents with high precision, Tasnim news reported on Monday.

The device can be used for both microbiological and cellular studies for determining cell characteristics and function and immunological cell markers, said Bani-Hashemi.

The error rate of this device is next to zero. It is capable of detecting 12 color cytometers, whereas the typical flow



cytometers can detect around three or four color cytometers, he added.

Flow cytometry is a particularly powerful method because it allows a researcher to rapidly, accurately, and simply collect data related to many parameters from a heterogeneous fluid mixture containing live cells, he said.

According to Bani-Hashemi, this is the most advanced type of flow cytometer; the production of this model of flow cytometers first started in 2017 and there are currently only a few of them across the world.

Iranian student designs X-ray attenuating lotion

HEALTH TEHRAN — An Iranian student has made an innovation by making a lotion that can protect human skin against ultraviolet and X-ray radiation, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

The idea, made by Mohammad Reza Majidi, a medical student at University of Gonabad won the gold medal at the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva 2019.

According to Majidi, the lotion can be used in all kind of medical imaging. The technology is particularly useful when interference of waves might pose a problem to the imaging process.

The lotion is also antibacterial, it contains herb oils and keep the skin hydrated, said Majidi.

"Initial tests have been made on the lotion and after getting the medical license from Health Ministry, we can start the production," he said.

Apart from the gold medal, Majidi also received the Special Prize of Geneva



International Exhibition of Inventions for his novel idea.

Majidi has also won the bronze medal at the Silicon Valley International Exhibition of Inventions in California, United States.

The International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva ran from April 10 to 14.

It is an annual event that has been recognized as the most important innovation and technology exhibition of its kind in the world.

The event presented more than 1000 inventions from over 40 countries.

Too much dietary fat in the brain may impact mental health

People with obesity are often likely to develop depression as well, but the mechanisms at play are still unclear. New research in mice may now explain what happens in the brains of individuals who have a high-fat diet.

Many studies — including one that Medical News Today covered in November last year — have found that people with obesity are at increased risk of depression.

So far, though, it has remained unclear exactly why this is the case, and what biological mechanisms might drive obesity-related depression.

A team of researchers from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom and the Gladstone Institutes, in San Francisco, CA, has recently studied how eating a diet high in saturated fats might make depression more likely, using mouse models to do so.

The investigators — led by Prof. George Baillie, from the University of Glasgow — note that this is a particularly important research topic, as obesity-related depression seems to happen via different mechanisms from depression in otherwise healthy individuals.

In its study paper, which appears in the journal Translational Psychiatry, the research team explains that many people with obesity and depression, who doctors treat with regular antidepressants, do not see any benefits from the treatment.

At the same time, people with obesity and depression also do not experience some of the side effects that people typically associate with those antidepressants, such as further weight gain.

"When compared with patients of normal body weight, overweight and obese patients showed a substantially slower response to antidepressant treatment, less improvement in neuroendocrinology and cognitive processing, and less antidepressant-induced weight gain," the researchers write.

So, what happens in the brains of people who are overweight or have obesity that makes them more susceptible to depression?

To gain a basic idea, the research team conducted a preliminary study in mouse models to which the scientists fed a high-fat diet, containing up to 60% of both saturated and unsaturated fats.



The brains of mammals, including humans, actually need certain fatty acids —such as omega-3 — to function correctly. Humans bodies, in particular, cannot synthesize fatty acids on their own, and so they need to absorb these nutrients from food.

However, not all fatty acids are as healthful, and the overaccumulation of fatty acids in the body can lead to health problems.

In the current study, the researchers looked at how fatty acids accumulated in the brains of the mice eating the high-fat diet, and whether these substances affected mechanisms that scientists tie to mental health and changes in behavior consistent with the presence of depression.

Soon enough, the team found that the mice in their studies experienced an influx of palmitic acid to a region of the brain known as the hypothalamus, which regulates the release of various hormones into the bloodstream.

Palmitic acid is a common saturated fatty acid that is present in many different foods and ingredients, including palm and olive oil, cheese, butter, margarine, and some meat products.

According to previous research, this fatty acid may explain the link between obesity and an increased risk of cardiovascular problems.

Through the current study, the investigators have uncovered another role — it seems the high levels of palmitic acid in the hypothalamus alter a signaling pathway that researchers associate

with traits of depression. This pathway, known as cAMP/PKA, is involved in many metabolic processes, including dopamine signaling, which, in turn, contributes to the regulation of emotions.

Thus, in mice at least, the researchers were able to confirm that the absorption of certain dietary fats has a direct impact on brain-signaling pathways that influence the development of depression.

■ Comfort eating may amplify bad emotions

"This is the first time anyone has observed the direct effects a high-fat diet can have on the signaling areas of the brain related to depression," says Prof. Baillie. "This research may begin to explain how and why obesity is linked with depression, and how we can potentially better treat patients with these conditions," he adds.

The team believes that the mechanism it observed in mice is probably also at play in humans with obesity-related depression. The connection between a poor diet and poor mental health makes sense, according to the lead author.

"We often use fatty food to comfort ourselves as it tastes really good, however, in the long term, this is likely to affect one's mood in a negative way. Of course, if you are feeling low, then to make yourself feel better you might treat yourself to more fatty foods, which then would consolidate negative feelings."

(Source: medicalnewstoday.com)

New dialysis machine saves €2m annually: official

HEALTH TEHRAN — Helal Iran Medical Devices Company provides hollow fibers for dialysis machine which saves 2 million euros annually, the company director Ali Faraji announced, Tasnim reported on Sunday.

"We have found a new source for importing hollow fibers with a more reasonable price," he said.

The hollow fibers are tested and their quality is approved, he said.

Dialysis machine filters a patient's blood to remove excess water and waste products when the kidneys are damaged, dysfunctional, or missing. The dialysis machine itself can be thought of as an artificial kidney.

Inside, it consists of more plastic tubing that carries the removed blood to the dialyser, a bundle of hollow fibers that forms a semipermeable membrane for filtering out impurities. In the dialyser, blood is diffused with a saline solution called dialysate, and the dialysate is in turn diffused with blood. When the filtration process is complete, the cleaned blood is returned to the patient.

Most patients who undergo dialysis because of kidney impairment or failure use a dialysis machine at a dialysis clinic. Also, a machine called a peritoneal dialysis machine can be used chronically at home for dialysis, which eliminates the need for regular hemodialysis clinic treatments. Using this machine during the day and frequently during sleep, the patient can control his/her own dialysis.

In late February, the director of Transplantation Department at the Ministry of Health Mehdi Shadnoosh announced that it is estimated that, annually, the number of Iranians who receive dialysis grow by three to four thousands, and every round of dialysis costs around 4.5 million rials (around \$107) for the healthcare system.

According to World Health Organization, a 2015 study revealed that, in 2015, 1.2 million people died from kidney failure, an increase of 32% since 2005.

In 2010, an estimated 2.3–7.1 million people with end-stage kidney disease died without access to chronic dialysis. Additionally, each year, around 1.7 million people are thought to die from acute kidney injury. Overall, therefore, an estimated 5–10 million people die annually from kidney disease.

Charcoal toothpastes ‘don’t whiten teeth’

Charcoal-based toothpastes, which claim to whiten teeth, are a "marketing gimmick" which could increase the risk of tooth decay and staining, says a review in the British Dental Journal.

The charcoal products, which are increasingly popular, often contain no fluoride to help protect the teeth.

And there is no scientific evidence to back up the claims they make, the authors say.

Excessive brushing with them can do more harm than good, they add. They advise people to go to their dentist for advice on bleaching, or whitening, their teeth.


And they say it is better to stick to using a regular fluoride-based toothpaste.

Charcoal was first used for oral hygiene purposes in ancient Greece, as a way of removing stains from teeth and disguising unpleasant odours from diseased gums.

Dr. Joseph Greenwall-Cohen, co-author of the study from the University of Manchester Dental School, said "more and more shops are selling charcoal-based toothpastes and powders", including Superdrug, Boots and Tesco, after celebrities had started talking about using them.

But he said the claims they made had been found to be unproven by a 2017 US review of 50 products.


(Source: BBC News)



N.I.O.C
1398.861

Second Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
Two-Stages (semi compressed) tender



National Iranian Drilling Company

Subject of Tender: (THE LEASE OF ONE OFFSHORE DRILLING RIG FOR SOUTH PARS PROJECT)

* Tender Descriptions :

The Tender Holder	Registration No. Through National Electronic Tendering System	Tender No.:	Estimated Value (Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3/200/277	97/DP-33-06-5249	(35,000,000) Euro

* Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

method	1-Based on minimum scoring made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms: (65 score). 2-Tenderes which has a four active current contract with NIDC will not be allowed to participate in other tenders. 3- Tenderers which has a two active current contract with same subject (exactly same subject) with NIDC, will not be allowed to participate in other tenders.
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* Purchasing & submitting of Tender documents

Distribution of tender documents by NIDC	Starting date for receiving (The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement) Last time for receiving (ended on the following tenth day thereof) Distribution place Contracts department— part A – first floor – operational building – koveemallet — Ahvaz- Iran- 061-34146525
Submitting method	Submitting one original bank fund receipt in the amount of 990,000 rials under account number 4001114004020491 (IBAN: IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC incomes centralized fund" issued by I.R. of Iran central bank. Submitting formal request for the purpose of receiving of tender doc
Tender Envelopes Delivery Date	Closing date 14 Days after the last time of purchasing of tender documents. Delivery address Hall no. 107,1st floor, tender committee, operation building, national drilling company, airport square, Ahvaz, Iran. Tel : +98-61-34148581 +98-61-34148569


* Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	45,224,000,000 Rials or 964,676 Euro
Acceptable	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtained activity license from the central bank of the Islamic republic of Iran.
Type of guarantee	Submitting one original bank fund receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (IBAN: IR 350100004001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving centralized account" by the central bank of Islamic republic of Iran.
Duration of credit for quotation	Tender guarantee /quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one more time in ceiling of initial validity duration.

(Name of department)


Guarantee and More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on : www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵



N.I.O.C
1398.907

Second Announcement



National Iranian Drilling Company

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

One Stages tender

Subject of Tender: P/F: "MH" POWER TOP DRIVE

• Tender Descriptions :

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indet No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3.200.396	Tender No.: FP/04-98/023 Indet No.: 08-22-9745186	9.732.000.000

• Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject.
	1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender... 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender

• Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof (closing date : 98/03/06)
Distribution Place Submitting Method	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC -Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents
Documents Receiving Method	Closing date (Days after the last time of Purchasing. (closing date (10/04/98 35 (98/04/11) The envelopes will be opened At 9.15 a.m. On
Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

• Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	487.000.000 Rial / 10,389 Euro
Type of guarantee	✓--Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓--Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تایمز نویت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نویت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵

Saudi Arabia says oil facilities outside Riyadh attacked

Saudi halts pumping on major oil pipeline



→ Houthi-run Masirah TV earlier said the group had launched drone attacks on "vital" Saudi installations in response to "continued aggression and blockade" on Yemen.

According to Press TV, seven drones run by Yemeni armed forces have reportedly carried out attacks against vital Saudi facilities in response to the Riyadh regime's ongoing acts of aggression against Yemeni people.

A Yemeni military source told al-Masirah TV on Tuesday that the extensive military operation was conducted in retaliation for Saudi Arabia's deadly military aggression and the siege of the impoverished Arabian Peninsula state.

The source did not, however, specify the targets or the time of the strikes.

The official also warned that Yemeni

fighters stand ready "to execute more of these significant and tough strikes as long as the siege continues."

Saudi Arabia and its allies launched the war against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall the Riyadh-allied former regime.

The invaders have, however, failed to achieve their objectives in the face of stiff resistance by Yemeni armed forces, led by the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The Western-backed aggression, coupled with a naval blockade, has killed tens of thousands of Yemenis, destroyed the country's infrastructure and led to a humanitarian crisis.

Yemeni fighters regularly target positions inside Saudi Arabia in retaliatory attacks against the protracted offensive on their homeland.

Syria calls on UNSC to stop U.S.-backed SDF attacks

TEHRAN — Syria has called on the United Nations Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and adopt immediate and effective measures to stop the attacks and treasonous actions of Kurdish-led militants from the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) actively operating in the Arab country's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr.

Over the past weeks, several rallies have been held in protest against SDF practices, calling for their expulsion from the region, with protesters chanting slogans against the SDF occupation, which has led to chaos, kidnapping, killing and monopoly of Syria's oil.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said in letters addressed to the UN Secretary-General and the head of the Security Council on Monday that the SDF should be compelled to respect the world body's resolutions that assert Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, according to Syria's official news agency SANA.

According to Press TV, the ministry added that the SDF, by committing criminal acts, intends to subjugate Syrian citizens who are demanding their rights and calling for the Syrian government's resumption of carrying out its duties in the eastern province.

Turkey, Russia discuss reducing tension in Syria's Idlib

TEHRAN — Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and his Russian counterpart discussed by phone developments in Syria's Idlib province and measures to reduce tension in the area, the Turkish Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

According to Reuters, a renewed wave of violence in northwestern Syria has killed more than 120 civilians.

On Monday, rebels said they mounted a counterattack against government forces in northwestern Syria, where Idlib is located, ramping up battles in Syria's last major insurgent stronghold.

On Monday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told his Russian counterpart

Vladimir Putin that the Syrian government was targeting Turkish-Russian cooperation in Idlib by violating the agreed ceasefire, a deal that had staved off a government offensive since September.

Since April 28, a total of 18 health facilities have been struck, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) told Reuters on Monday. Two hospitals were hit twice.

At least four health workers have been killed, and, as of Monday, the 18 health facilities - which collectively serve a minimum of 193,000 people - remain out of service, OCHA said.

Senior Conservatives tell May to ditch Brexit talks with Labour

TEHRAN — British Prime Minister Theresa May was told by senior members of her own party on Tuesday to abandon talks to find a Brexit compromise with the opposition Labor Party as pressure mounted on her to name a date for standing down.

Nearly three years after the United Kingdom voted 52% to 48% to leave the European Union, there is still no agreement among British politicians about when, how or even if the divorce should take place, Reuters reported.

The country was due to have left the European Union on March 29, but May has been unable to get her divorce deal approved by parliament, so she has turned to the Labor Party, led by socialist Jeremy Corbyn, for help.

Thirteen of May's former cabinet colleagues as well as Graham Brady, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Conservative lawmakers, wrote to May to ask her not to agree to Labor's demand for a post-Brexit customs union with the EU.



"You would have lost the loyal middle of the Conservative Party, split our party and with likely nothing to show for it," the letter said. "We urge you to think again."

"No leader can bind his or her successor so the deal

would likely be at best temporary, at worst illusory," said the letter, which was signed by Gavin Williamson, who was sacked as defense minister this month, and former foreign minister Boris Johnson.

May has repeatedly ruled out signing up to a permanent customs union. Corbyn said last week May had made no big offer on Brexit and had not moved her "red lines".

At a meeting with the parliamentary Labor Party on Monday, Corbyn came under pressure to clarify his position on Brexit, with both backers of a second referendum and others who want a deal to leave arguing their case, sources told Reuters.

May, who secured the leadership in the chaos that followed Britain's 2016 vote to leave the European Union, has promised to step down if lawmakers back the deal she struck with Brussels to leave the bloc.

But the prime minister has lost heavily on three attempts to get it through parliament. And some of her own lawmakers want her to name a date for her departure.

Iran moving forward in IP sector

→ To provide more detail about the issue Mr. Hallberg went on.

"The main aim of this Danish-Iranian partnership is to positively affect Iran's sustainable and inclusive growth, especially within knowledge-intensive sectors. Iran has a remarkable potential in this area and ranks third worldwide within science and engineering education with more than a quarter million candidates that graduate from Iranian universities each year, of whom 70 per cent are women. If that level of human capital is to be transferred into economic growth, the system for protecting innovation and intellectual property needs to be strong. This is also the policy of the government of Iran and Denmark is happy to contribute with our own experiences to support the Iranian ambitions," the Danish expert told MNA.




"All the Danish expert delegations that we have brought to Iran have been positively surprised by the warm hospitality of Iranian authorities in receiving them and engaging in technical and complicated discussions about how best to protect intellectual property. Our two countries are of course very different but Denmark has worked for many years to bring its intellectual property legislation and institutional practices to a high level and by sharing those experiences with our Iranian partners, the authorities here can get some useful inputs as to how that development is best supported in Iran," he added.

"One of the areas where Denmark public authorities has invested a lot of energy in recent years is within standardizing internal work procedures and building sophisticated quality management systems so that all applications for protection of intellectual property are judged from consistent criteria. This also helps efficiency and speed in case processing. Annually, Iran received more than 15,000 patent applications, which is the fourth highest number amongst the lower and upper middle-income countries, after China, India, and the Russian Federation. The amount of applications continues to rise and shows the importance of having an efficient and first-rate case-processing system in Iran, which is one of the key areas that we work on with the Intellectual Property Office," Mr. Hallberg said.

"Currency, we have experience-sharing activities and workshops with the Intellectual Property Center, Iranian Customs, Office of the Public Prosecutors, judges from criminal and civil courts, and experts from the Iranian Consultative Assembly and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. And we keep on adding new Iranian partners that have an interest in our project," he informed.

"In my opinion, a project like this shows the clear benefit of countries like Iran and Denmark engaging in long-term technical cooperation and partnerships that will undoubtedly also strengthen our bilateral relations and dialogue about other issues of common interests," he concluded.

The IP contract signed between Iran and Denmark stands among the most influential and practical ones between the two countries. As of December 13, 2016, when the contract was signed in Tehran on a sidelines of a seminar, till the present date, around 15 important types of cooperation such as conducting IP studies, various training workshops about patents and trademarks, and etc. have been done.



First Announcement

N.I.O.C
1398.861

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
Two-Stages (semi compressed) tender

National Iranian Drilling Company

Subject of Tender: (THE LEASE OF ONE OFFSHORE DRILLING RIG FOR SOUTH PARS PROJECT)

* Tender Descriptions:

The Tender Holder	Registration No. Through National Electronic Tendering System	Tender No.:	Estimated Value (Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3/200/277	97/DP-33-06-5249	(35,000,000) Euro

* Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

method	1-Based on minimum scoring made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms: (65 score). 2-Tenderers which has a four active current contract with NIDC will not be allowed to participate in other tenders. 3- Tenderers which has a two active current contract with same subject (exactly same subject) with NIDC, will not be allowed to participate in other tenders.

* Purchasing & submitting of Tender documents

Distribution of tender documents by NIDC	Starting date for receiving	(The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement)
	Last time for receiving	Last time for receiving (ended on the following tenth day thereof)
	Distribution place	Contracts department— part A — first floor — operational building — koveemallet — Ahvaz- Iran- 061-34146525
	Submitting method	Submitting one original bank fund receipt in the amount of 990,000 rials under account number 4001114004020491 (IBAN: IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC incomes centralized fund" issued by I.R. of Iran central bank. Submitting formal request for the purpose of receiving of tender doc 14 Days after the last time of purchasing of tender documents.
Tender Envelopes Delivery Date	Closing date	14 Days after the last time of purchasing of tender documents.
	Delivery address	Hall no. 107,1st floor, tender committee, operation building, national drilling company, airport square, Ahvaz, Iran. Tel.: +98-61-34148581 +98-61-34148569

* Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	45,224,000,000 Rials or 964,676 Euro
Acceptable	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtained activity license from the central bank of the Islamic republic of Iran.
Type of guarantee	Submitting one original bank fund receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (IBAN: IR 350100004001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving centralized account" by the central bank of Islamic republic of Iran.
Duration of credit for quotation	Tender guarantee /quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one more time in ceiling of initial validity duration.

(Name of department)

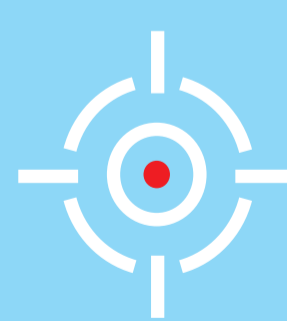
Guarantee and More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵

TEHRAN TIMES


Iran's Leading International Daily

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First Announcement

N.I.O.C
1398.830

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)
One -Stages tender

National Iranian Drilling Company

Subject of Tender: PARTS FOR "HHCT" SILICON CONTROL RECTIFIR SYSTEM (S.C.R&MCC)

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Ria)/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,200,038	INDENT NO: 01-22-9746004 TenderNo.: FP/11-97/036	6,664,916,237

* Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method	Qualification process will be done in plain mode in offers opening session according to presentation of valid practice certificate / legal documents (certificate of corporation/ supply announcement up to latest changes) which should be related to tender subject. 1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender. 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in similare subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender

* Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Document Distribution by Company	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following seventh day thereof.
Distribution Place
Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of "NIDC incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing.....
Documents Receiving Method	Address Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN. Tel.: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569


* Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	333,250,000 RLS , 6,886 EURO
Type of guarantee	✓-Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓-Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Name of department)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵




N.I.O.C
1398.826

First Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

One -Stages (semi compressed) tender

Subject of Tender: Parts For Caterpillar Equipment



National Iranian Drilling Company

• **Tender descriptions:**

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,199,533	Tender No. :FP/09-98/011 Indent No.:01-22-9747001	21,324,128,108

• **Qualitative evaluation of tenderers**

Method	R Based on minimum scoring (60 Points) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.
	<p>1- Applicants who have more than 4 in process contracts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender.</p> <p>Applicants which have more than 2 in process contracts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender</p>

• **Purchasing & Submitting**

Tender Document Distribution by Company		The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.
	Distribution Place	Hall No.:113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN – Tel : 061 34148601
	Submitting Method	Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 in name of ‘NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund’ issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Avoid any payment other than the bank method (in person) and also provide a deposit. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
Documents Receiving Method	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

• **Tender Guarantee**

Value of guarantee	1,067,000,000 Rial/ 22,421 Euro
Type of guarantee	<p>✓Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>✓Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of ‘NIDC saving account’ by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</p>
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Foreign Procurement Dept.)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir <http://sapp.ir/nidc-pr>

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۲/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۲/۲۵

Marc Wilmots to finalize deal with Iran on Wednesday

S P O R T S T E H R A N — Ex-Belgium coach Marc Wilmots, who has reportedly reached an agreement with Iranian Football Federation, will travel to Tehran on Wednesday to finalize his deal with Iran.

Iran will reportedly pay the 50-year-old coach and his two Belgian assistants \$1,500,000 per year.

The Iranian federation also wants former Team Melli captain Javad Nekounam to be a member of the coaching staff.

Some Iranian media reported that Wilmots has traveled to Iran but a top official from the Iran federation said the Belgian coach has not yet come to Tehran.

Parliament member Mohammad Reza Tabesh has also said Wilmots will most likely pen a contract with the Iranian federation.

The Belgian led his homeland to the 2014 World Cup and Euro 2016, but was sacked after that tournament in France.

Wilmots, who is also on the Scotland's list of candidates, will replace Carlos Queiroz in Team Melli.

Carlos Queiroz left Iran to take over as Colombia coach after Team Melli's AFC Asian Cup 2019 campaign in the United Arab Emirates in January earlier this year.

The Portuguese tactician spent eight years as Iran trainer and coached 100th match in 3-0 defeat by Japan in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup semis.

Queiroz's highlights during his time with Iran include two trips to the FIFA World Cup, becoming the first coach of the Iranian national team to lead the nation to consecutive world finals. On both occasions, Team Melli failed to progress past the group stage.

Wilmots has been without a team after leaving the Ivory Coast coaching position in November 2017. Another Belgian coach is currently in Iran. Georges Leekens, another former Red Devils coach, is in charge of Tractor Sazi football club.



Wilmots will start his work as Iran coach in two friendly matches against Syria and South Korea.

Iran, who are top AFC team in the FIFA rankings at No. 21, will host Syria in Tehran on June 6.

Team Melli will also face South Korea five days later at World Cup Stadium in Seoul.

Iran are preparing for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that begin in the second half of this year.

Persepolis midfielder Resan facing two months out of action



S P O R T S T E H R A N — Persepolis Iraqi midfielder Bashar Resan will be out of action for two months after undergoing shoulder surgery.

On Tuesday, Resan underwent successful surgery at the Bahman Hospital in Tehran.

“Resan will be released from the hospital on Thursday and we try to prepare him for the shortest time possible. I think he needs two months to recover,” Persepolis doctor Alireza Haghighat said.

Resan will miss Persepolis final match in Iran league against Pars Jonoubi on Thursday and also will miss the match against Al Sadd of Qatar in the AFC Champions League.

Resan joined Persepolis from Iraqi football team Al-Quwa Al-Jawiain in July 2017 with a two-year contract.

He was a member of Iraq national football team in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, where the Lions of Mesopotamia lost to Qatar 1-0 in the quarter-finals.

Zob Ahan will host Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia in Karbala



S P O R T S T E H R A N — Iran's Zob Ahan football team will host Saudi Arabia's Al Nasr at the Karbala Sports City in Matchday Six of the 2019 AFC Champions League on May 21.

The Iranian club had already said they will not play in the stadium after their players were attacked by the Al Zawraa's fans but the Asian Football Confederation has not agreed with the Iranian club's decision.

On May 7, Zob Ahan scored a late

goal against the Iraqi football team at the Karbala International Stadium and booked a place at the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16, however after goal, some of Al Zawraa's fans came onto the field and attacked Zob Ahan players. Zob Ahan captain Ghasem Haddadifar was attacked by a fan and suffered a head injury.

Zob Ahan have complained to AFC over the incident.

Damir Skomina to referee Spurs v Liverpool

Slovenia's Damir Skomina will referee the all-English Champions League final between Tottenham and Liverpool.

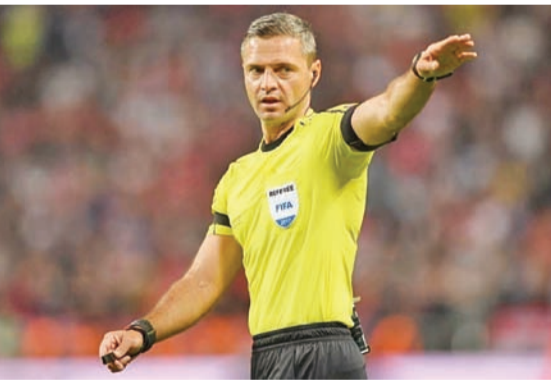
The 42-year-old awarded Manchester United a controversial late penalty in their last-16 victory over Paris St-Germain in March.

PSG forward Neymar was later given a three-match ban after he called the decision "a disgrace" on social media.

The Champions League final takes place at Estadio Metropolitano in Madrid on Saturday, 1 June at 20:00 BST.

Skomina was in charge when United beat Ajax in the 2017 Europa League final as well as the Uefa Super Cup match between Chelsea and Atletico Madrid five years earlier.

He was fourth official at the 2013 Champions League



final between Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich and has been referee in four of the competition's matches this season, including Liverpool's 1-0 win over Napoli which secured a place in the knockout stage.

He will be assisted in the final by his compatriots Jure Praprotnik and Robert Vukan. The fourth official will be Antonio Mateu Lahoz from Spain.

The video assistant referee role has been assigned to Danny Makkelie from the Netherlands, who will be supported by countryman Pol van Boekel, plus German officials Felix Zwayer, and Mark Borsch.

Italian referee Gianluca Rocchi will take charge of Europa League final between Chelsea and Arsenal in Baku on 29 May.

(Source: BBC)

Federer packing in Rome practice ahead of French Open

Roger Federer insisted Monday his focus at this week's Italian Open was on getting more match practice on clay ahead of the French Open in two weeks time.

The 20-time Grand Slam winner has not played on the red clay in the Foro Italico since 2015 when he finished runner-up for the fourth time, losing to Novak Djokovic in the final.

“Regardless of what happens here, I just think it's good for me to play matches at this stage,” said world number three Federer before his first match on Wednesday.

He has a first-round bye as the number three seed, and will begin his tournament against either American Frances Tiafoe or Portugal's Joao Sousa.

The 37-year-old's performance in the Madrid Open last week has boosted his hopes of winning the French Open, a decade after his only title there.

He fell in the quarter-finals on Friday to Dominic Thiem, but twice held match point

and for a set and a half was dominant against a player considered among the favourites for Roland Garros after Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

“I think I was playing well in Madrid, so I just said, again, ‘Let's come to Rome, a city I like so much as well’.

“Madrid is a tough place to play. I felt like playing somewhat maybe more sea level conditions would be good for me.

“There would be excitement, more excitement than me coming to a practice court in Switzerland.

“I think this week, then next week in Paris, it's going to be interesting to see how I play the points, how I do it all.”

His arrival in the Italian capital has been a boost for organisers who doubled ticket prices after it was announced he would be playing.

“That's obviously disappointing to hear,” said Federer.

“I just really hope it doesn't take away the fact I'm really happy to be here.”

■ 'New wave coming through' -

Federer is in the same half of the draw as eight-time Rome winner Rafael Nadal, who is looking for his first clay title this season before his French Open title defence.

“I have other problems first getting there,” said Federer, who could meet the Spaniard in the semi-final.

A potential quarter-final awaits against either Stefanos Tsitsipas, the eighth seed, who beat Nadal in the Madrid semi-finals, or Italian 10th seed Fabio Fognini, the Monte Carlo winner.

“I thought Stefanos was very impressive against him (Nadal) last week,” continued Federer. “I think it's going to be a good season. It's going to be interesting to see who is going to make the World Tour Finals, especially if so many guys have won especially big titles, like Fabio in Monaco.

“There is a bit of a new wave coming through with the one-handed backhand that can counter some of Rafa's spins and lefty play.



“But, again, this is maybe also just a moment in time. We'll see what happens for the rest of the year.

“It's announcing to be a very exciting season, even a more complicated one for the top guys next year, I believe, because this is the year where they truly are breaking through, truly are gaining a lot of experience.

“Especially for the clay-courtiers.”

(Source: AFP)

Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand linked with Genk

S P O R T S T E H R A N — Belgian football club Genk have set their sight on signing Iran and Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

Genk are going to pay 700,000 euros to Persepolis to sign the 26-year-old keeper.

Turkish top-flight football teams Fenerbahçe, Besiktas and Çaykur Rizespor are also interested in signing Beiranvand.

Beiranvand saved a penalty from Cristiano Ronaldo in the match against Portugal in the 2018 World Cup and thrust his name into the international spotlight.

Beiranvand also helped Persepolis reach 2018 AFC Champions League final, where the Reds lost to Kashima Antlers of Japan 2-0 on aggregate.

Report: PSG Want Madrid Trio Bale, Kroos and Isco

Paris Saint-Germain are preparing to blow their summer transfer budget on three Real Madrid players when the window reopens.

According to French newspaper Le Parisien, the Ligue 1 champions are interested in bringing Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos and Isco to the Parc des Princes.

They claim that PSG will offer around £180million for the trio, who are all available if Real Madrid's demands are met.

Zinedine Zidane has personally told Bale that he is not in his plans for next season, while Kroos has struggled for form and Isco has been out of favour.

Real are planning their own summer overhaul, with Eden Hazard and Paul Pogba among Zidane's top targets.

Selling Bale, Kroos and Isco would help finance a spending spree as they attempt to get back on track after a hugely disappointing season.

PSG are said to have a particular interest in Kroos, although bids for Bale and Isco could depend on whether Julian Draxler and Edinson Cavani depart. The French giants want to cash in on the German, who has attracted the attention of Bayern Munich, while the future of Cavani remains up in the air.

Bale would prefer to stay at the Bernabeu, although a fresh start in Paris may appeal if no interest from the Premier League materialises.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Courtois will be Zidane's No. 1

Keylor Navas has been notified by Real Madrid that he will not be the first-choice goalkeeper next season, a source close to the player told ESPN FC on Tuesday, but has not made a decision regarding his future.

Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane told Navas last week that Thibaut Courtois, 27, will be his No. 1 for the 2019-20 campaign.

Navas has started in only nine league games for Madrid this season while Courtois has made 35 appearances -- 27 in La Liga -- since joining on a six-year contract from Chelsea last summer.

Zidane's return to the Madrid bench in March renewed hope the 32-year-old Navas would play more. The Costa Rica international was among the experienced players the French coach reinstated when he replaced Santiago Solari, adding that he "counted on them."

Navas' contract was extended in January for a further year until June 2021, but he said he would be prepared to leave if he were no longer No. 1 -- and is a reported target of Premier League clubs as well as Paris Saint-Germain and Porto.

However, the source said not many clubs can afford to pay Navas' wages, a reported €5m net per season, and that he is unwilling to take a pay cut.

(Source: ESPN)

Russian anti-doping chief calls for dismissal of athletics federation head

Russia's anti-doping chief has called for the dismissal of the head of the country's suspended athletics federation as part of a proposal to ensure all Russian athletes can compete at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, a letter seen by Reuters on Monday showed.

In the five-page letter addressed to Russian Olympic Committee President Stanislav Pozdnyakov, RUSADA Director Yuri Ganas proposed the dismissal of the federation's senior officials, including its President Dmitry Shlyakhtin, and all national team athletics coaches, among several other measures.

“Given that there is critically little time left until the start of the 2020 Olympics, and there is much to do in coordination with (global athletics governing body) IAAF, work toward the transformation of the federation requires an immediate resolution,” Ganas wrote in the letter, which RUSADA later published on its website.

RUSADA and Russia's athletics federation were suspended after a 2015 report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) found evidence of state-sponsored doping in Russian athletics.

RUSADA was reinstated last year by WADA, angering a string of sports bodies and athletes around the world.

Ganas also called for the creation of an international work group in which Russian and foreign experts would help bring the federation back into the International Association of Athletics Federation's fold.

He also called for the dismissal of officials at sports schools and other training centres tied to the doping scandal, as well as officials who have served doping bans.

“The Russian athletics federation needs real change,” Ganas wrote. “We have to stop deceiving not only all those around us, but ourselves first and foremost.”

Russia's athletics federation did not immediately reply to a request for comment, while Shlyakhtin could not be reached for comment.

Russian Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov dismissed RUSADA's proposals as “untimely” in comments to TASS news agency.

Following Ganas' proposals, the Russian Olympic Committee said it would create two working groups to help the federation get reinstated and to safeguard the rights of Russian athletes.

Despite the federation being banned, some Russians - including twice world champion high jumper Maria Lasitskine — have been cleared to compete internationally after demonstrating they are training in a doping-free environment.

The IAAF is set to review Russia's status at its council meeting next month.

(Source: Reuters)

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■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
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No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
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Zip Code: 1599814713



The world is a snake, its exterior is soft and nice to touch, and its interior contains deadly poison. Stupid and ignorant people are charmed by it but the wise avoid it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Behruz Afkhami to make comedy TV series on Iran's floods

A R T **TEHRAN** — Filmmaker Behruz Afkhami plans to make a comedy TV series about the recent floods in Iran.

"I have made trips to several flood-stricken regions and I am planning to work on the recent floods in the series, which has been named 'Lightning'," Afkhami told the Persian service of MNA on Tuesday.



Filmmaker Behruz Afkhami in an undated photo. (Mehrz/Mohammadreza Abbasi)

"The series is an adventure comedy, that is, I believe the recent floods were kind of adventures for many," he added.

He also said the story of the series carries a number of 10 to 15 central characters along with over 100 minor ones.

IRIB Channel 5 is scheduled to broadcast the series during the Noruz holiday beginning on March 21, 2020.

Heavy rainfall, beginning in March led to flooding in 28 out of 31 provinces affecting over 42,000,000 inhabitants in 253 cities in several provinces and causing widespread damage to municipal facilities, including health centers and hospitals.

Afkhami has previously made the TV series "Kuchake Jangali" about Mirza Kuchak Khan, an early twentieth-century revolutionary, and "Operation 125" about Iranian rescue teams and firefighters.

He is also director of a number of acclaimed movies such as "The Day of Satan", "The Day of the Devil" and "The Bride".

Cannes Film Festival defends award to 'imperfect' Delon

CANNES, France (Reuters) — Cannes Film Festival organizers on Monday defended handing an honorary prize to French screen legend Alain Delon, saying the actor, who has courted controversy with his views on women, was "not perfect" but entitled to his opinions.

"We're not giving him the Nobel Peace Prize," festival director Thierry Fremaux told a news conference, asked whether the award was appropriate at a time when the cinema showcase, like other film industry events, has supported campaigns for greater respect and representation for women.

"We're giving him the honorary Palme D'Or for his career as an actor." Delon, 83, one of Europe's most acclaimed actors for over five decades, has starred in films including Luchino Visconti's "The Leopard", which won the top prize at Cannes in 1963.

He has had a fraught relationship with the French cinema festival over the decades - once declaring he would never return after missing out on an invitation to its 50th anniversary celebrations - but is now set to take the spotlight in this 72nd edition, which runs from May 14-25.

Particularly admired in France as one of the country's top movie stars of the 1960s and 1970s, Delon has also inflamed public opinion over the years, including by declaring his friendship for far-right politician Jean-Marie Le Pen.

He told a French talk show in 2013 that same-sex couples should not be allowed to adopt children and has admitted to slapping women in interviews.

The move to recognize Delon has been criticized by women's rights advocates such as Women and Hollywood founder Melissa Silverstein.

"He's allowed to express his opinions. Personally, I don't agree," Fremaux said, adding however that Delon's life was full of contradictions and that nothing was completely clear cut.

Fremaux noted that Delon had starred in a film by Joseph Losey, who was known for his communist politics.

"Nowadays it's difficult to give awards, to honor someone, because the political police immediately appear," Fremaux said.

"Alain Delon is not perfect. I'm not perfect."

Japanese scholar Kiko Aiko travels by bookmobile to learn about IIDCYA activities

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Japanese translator of Persian children's books, Kiko Aiko, has accompanied a group of trainers from Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in a trip by bookmobile to learn more about the cultural activities of the organization.

The bookmobile went to Esmail Gerayeli Primary School in Khuzankola, a village located about 60 kilometers northwest of Tehran, on Sunday, the IIDCYA announced on Tuesday.

A number of IIDCYA staff members also accompanied Kiko during the trip, running a variety of cultural programs, including storytelling, poem reciting, games, reading and origami, for over 90 schoolchildren.

"Since I want to translate more books from Persian literature for Japanese children and to introduce Iranian culture to them, I felt I needed to raise my knowledge of the training programs and cultural activities in Iran," said Kiko who has studied Iranology and translated numerous Persian children's book into Japanese.

Fifteen years ago, she paid a visit to the Tehran International Book Fair where she was introduced to the IIDCYA. She translated a large collection of IIDCYA books, which were put on view during over 50 exhibitions across Japan.

"Today's trip gave me some real insight into the cultural activities the IIDCYA is performing for village children," Kiko said.

"I was impressed by the reading programs carried out by the IIDCYA trainers, and the children's desire for knowledge was also so amazing," she added.

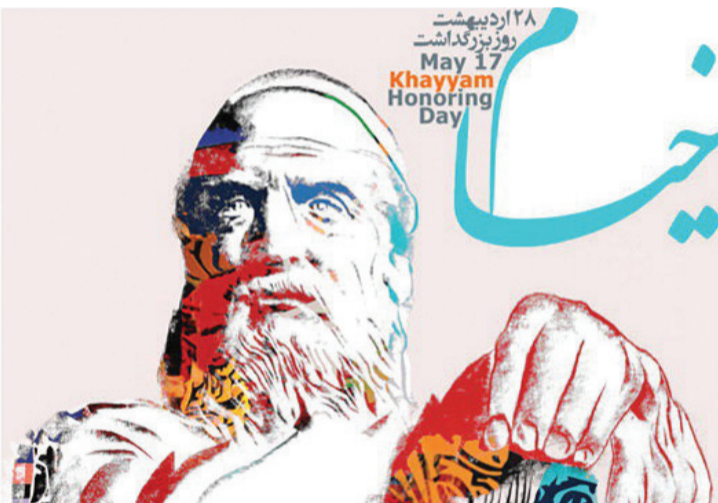
She also noted that Japanese people view Iran as the land of poetry and literature and said, "However, they feel that the Persian language is hard to learn."

"Perhaps, this view has its root in the abundance of fiction, metaphor and equivocation in Persian literature," she stated. Kiko also praised the IIDCYA books for their rich illustrations.



Japanese translator of Persian children's books Kiko Aiko is seen along with IIDCYA trainers and schoolchildren in the village of Khuzankola on May 12, 2019. (IIDCYA/Yunes Panahi)

Literati, artists to celebrate Khayyam Day on Saturday



A poster for Khayyam Day.

A R T **TEHRAN** — A number of Iranian literati and Khayyam scholars will gather at the University of Neyshabur in his hometown on Saturday to discuss works by the great Persian poet and mathematician.

The meeting has been organized to celebrate Khayyam Day, which falls on Saturday.

Moreover, on Friday night, his fans will gather at his mausoleum in Neyshabur to attend various cultural programs, which will be organized to commemorate the creator of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.

The city will also host several

other programs including meetings, workshops, a calligraphy exhibition and a mathematics contest.

The exhibition of calligraphy works by masters of calligraphy from different cities of Khorasan Razavi Province will open at the Kamalolmolk Gallery in Neyshabur.

Sculptors will also hold a workshop at the mausoleum of Khayyam where the mathematics contest will also be held.

Khayyam is chiefly known to English-speaking readers through the translation by the English writer Edward Fitzgerald of a collection of his quatrains in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (1859).

Tehran to host two cultural events on Imam Ali (AS)



A poster for a meeting that the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries plans to organized about Imam Ali (AS).

A R T **TEHRAN** — Tehran centers will be hosting a meeting and a book exhibition to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali (AS).

A number of Iranian scholars will come together during a session this afternoon at the Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries to review Persian literary works in prose and verse on Imam Ali (AS).

Literati Hassan Bolkhari, Mehdi Mohaqeq, Ahmad Tamimdari and Ali

Musavi Garmarudi are scheduled to deliver speeches during the meeting.

In addition, the public library of Hosseinih Ershad, a major religious and cultural center in Tehran, will hold an exhibition of books on Imam Ali (AS), his companions and the Nahjul-Balagha, which contains his sermons, letters and short sayings.

Some of the reference books from the library will also be put on view at the exhibition, which will be held from May 25 to June 3.

Iranian dotar player Yalda Abbasi touring with Germany's Schiller



German musician Christopher von Deylen (L) and Iranian dotar player Yalda Abbasi pose in an undated photo.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian dotar player Yalda Abbasi is accompanying German electronic music band Schiller in their tour of Germany, which began in Dresden on May 8.

Led by Christopher von Deylen, Schiller is scheduled to perform in Leipzig, Frankfurt, Nurnberg, Bielefeld and Erfurt until May 14.

The band will also perform in Hannover today. Their next stop will be in Cologne on Friday.

The tour will then continue in Oberhausen, Mannheim, Stuttgart, Munich, Bremen and Hamburg.

The concert tour will come to an end with a performance in Berlin on May 25.

Schiller performed concerts in Tehran during November 2107 and March 2018.

Italian festival picks shorts from Iran



A scene from "Delay" by Ali Asgari.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Three Iranian short films will be competing in the 20th edition of the ShortIS International Film Festival running in the Italian city of Trieste from June 28 to July 6.

The shorts are "Sluggish Life" by Mohsen Mehri, "Delay" by Ali Asgari and "The Role" by Farnush Samadi, the organizers have announced.

"Sluggish Life" is about the peculiar life of a sophisticated man.

In "Delay", a man and his two children are late for their flight, and while they wait for the next flight something happens that changes his point of view about being a father.

"The Role" tells the story of a woman who accompanies her husband for an audition. What happens there leads her to an important decision.

"Angry Birds" fly to Cannes for movie sequel

CANNES, France (Reuters) — The parade of glammed-up movie stars at the Cannes Film Festival got off to an unorthodox start on Monday with a crowd of enormous, fluffy birds hogging the limelight on the Croisette boulevard to mark the launch of the "Angry Birds" sequel.

On the eve of the 72nd Cannes filmfest - kicked off officially with the premiere of Jim Jarmusch's zombie film "The Dead Don't Die" on Tuesday - producers of the animated movie celebrated its planned release in early August.

"The Angry Birds Movie 2", like the first installment in the franchise, is based on a Rovio video game where players use a slingshot to attack pigs who steal the birds' eggs.

The first Angry Birds, released in 2016, earned about \$350 million at the box office and gave a boost to Rovio's game sales, helping the company swing to an annual profit after years of falling earnings, job cuts and divestments.

The sequel - in which the birds join forces with their green pig rivals to defeat a common foe - features Jason Sudeikis

lending his voice to Red, the main protagonist, with Bill Hader, Josh Gad and Danny McBride also voicing characters.

"We have an amazing crew that we have been working with, and together, we played around, we experimented, we found really funny moments," said director Thurop Van Orman, as people wearing oversized Angry Bird costumes entertained onlookers.

Producer John Cohen said he hoped there would be a third movie to follow.